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Ranks broken as Clarke is attacked

Major fights to restore unity on EU

By Jill Sherman, Andrew Pierce and Philip Webster

JOHN MAJOR was desperately struggling to prevent Cabinet unity disintegrating last night after a Foreign Office Minister, in an astonishing breach of government rules, publicly attacked Kenneth Clarke over his stance on a European single currency.

The Prime Minister launched a damage-limitation exercise after Sir Nicholas Bonsor fuelled the Tory turmoil over Europe by accusing the Chancellor of straying from government policy in his statement on Sunday that it would be "pathetic" for Britain to dither over entry to a single currency and then try to join at a later stage.

Sir Nicholas's open breach of the creed of collective responsibility, which prevents ministers criticising each other in public, left the Government looking dangerously close to open warfare.

Mr Major contacted Mr Clarke in Bermuda yesterday afternoon to agree a course of action which would prevent the row escalating. Mr Clarke is attending a Commonwealth finance ministers' meeting.

Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, was also contacted by his department in New York, where he was addressing the United Nations General Assembly. Two hours later Downing Street and the Foreign Office made clear that the Government's policy on a single currency had not changed, a point which Michael Heseltine emphasised later.

"There will be no change."



Bonsor: "accepts he made a mistake"

he said. "The Prime Minister has made that quite clear."

Mr Major, whose exasperation with Mr Clarke had been made plain by confidants on Monday, had to rein in Sir Nicholas to dispel the view that his attack had Downing Street's endorsement.

Sir Nicholas told BBC Radio's *World at One* that Mr Clarke's comments had undermined attempts to restore party unity. "I don't think it was helped by Kenneth Clarke's comments," he said. "I think he will be out of line with the view of the vast majority of the party and I think it is out of line with what the Government policy has been."

By mid-afternoon Downing Street and the Foreign Office were saying that Sir Nicholas had misunderstood press reports of the Chancellor's comments and would be saying nothing further. They emphasised that Sir Nicholas had been expressing a "personal opinion" and had now "accepted he made a mistake".

Downing Street also made clear that Sir Nicholas had been reprimanded for failing to inform either the Foreign Office or Conservative Central Office about the interview "so that he could clear policy lines". But it was indicated that there would be no further disciplinary action. "We do not anticipate resignations," one official said.

Downing Street's later claim that Mr Clarke had not gone beyond the Cabinet line on the single currency marked an attempt to draw a line under the affair.

"The Prime Minister has made it clear that all must adhere fully to the position agreed by Cabinet," a Downing Street source said. "The Chancellor fully supports this policy and believes his views have been misrepresented. Many issues of importance to the UK remain to be resolved. These will affect the UK whether we are in a single currency or not and it is right that Britain should play its full role in the negotiations."

But Downing Street's attempts to smooth over the row were unconvincing, given the clear assertions by Mr Major's associates that before that Mr Clarke had breached the Cabinet compromise.

Ministers and MPs who heard Mr Clarke's statement on radio concluded without waiting for press reports that he had pushed the Cabinet Continued on page 2, col 4

Letters, page 17



Diana, Princess of Wales, at breakfast in the White House yesterday with Hillary Clinton and Katharine Graham

Princess takes some heat off First Lady

FROM TOM RHODES
IN WASHINGTON

DIANA, Princess of Wales, brought a distinctive British dazzle to Washington last night and provided a shield for Hillary Clinton as America's First Lady faced further damaging claims.

On her first foreign visit since her divorce, the Princess, dressed in the chocolate brown of the season, met Mrs Clinton at the White House just as another embarrassing report was made public about her alleged ties to fraudulent deals in Arkansas.

Last night the Princess was acting as honorary chairman of a Washington gala dinner and fashion sale at the National Building Museum to raise

millions of dollars for breast cancer research. The guest list included designers, haunting the dowdy American capital with their graceful New York styles, and some of Washington's most powerful, including General Colin Powell and Elizabeth Dole.

But first the Princess met Mrs Clinton. They chatted in the Blue Room before the Princess, accompanied by Anna Wintour, the British-born editor of *American Vogue*, Katharine Graham, the former publisher of *The Washington Post*, and the designer Ralph Lauren, went to the East Room for breakfast.

Mrs Clinton, clearly buoyed by the opportune visit of the Princess, emerged later to congratulate what she described as the latest

British invasion of America, a charity fashion extravaganza: "I was thinking as I met her [the Princess] that this is one of the nicest British invasions of the White House. Another one, as some of you may remember from history, burnt this place down."

Mrs Clinton added: "This is a woman who has worked for the homeless, for AIDS, cancer, leprosy and other health issues. I am so pleased she is lending her support to this continuing fight against breast cancer."

The Princess picked at a breakfast of layered peaches and raspberries, a napoleon of herbed eggs, roast tomatoes and Maryland crabs and appeared to be conversing easily with her neighbours, the First Lady and Ms

Wintour. It was an opportunity for the Princess to protect her hostess from the glare of publicity that she herself had suffered during their only previous meeting in Washington, two years ago. At that time the Princess used the American capital as a bolt-hole after disclosures about the Prince of Wales's affair with Camilla Parker Bowles.

Her breakfast was followed by a lunch at the British Embassy, hosted by Sir John Kerr, the Ambassador, whose guests included at least one of the most eligible bachelors in Washington and a senior Clinton political aide, George Stephanopoulos.

Bank officials misled, page 11
Alan Corea, page 16

Tougher test for L-drivers

The pass mark for the new written section of the driving test has been raised because learners are finding it too easy. From October 1 candidates will have to answer 30 out of 35 questions correctly instead of the current 26. About 85 per cent of those sitting the test, which was introduced in July, are passing.

Britain moves back into black

Britain's balance of payments with the rest of the world went back into the black in the second quarter of 1996, according to figures out yesterday. Economic growth was revised upwards for the second quarter. Meanwhile, America left its interest rates unchanged, a surprise to markets. Page 25

IRA man may have been unarmed

By Michael Horsnell, Bill Frost, Stewart Tandler and David Charter

THE IRA suspect Diarmuid O'Neill may not have been armed when he was shot dead by police during an anti-terrorist raid on Monday.

Scotland Yard sources said yesterday that a marksman had opened fire, fearing that he was about to be fired on. But police were still searching for a weapon yesterday.

O'Neill was killed in one of a series of raids which uncovered a massive arms cache and led to the arrest of five people — including O'Neill's younger brother, Shane. Intelligence reports had suggested that a serious IRA attack was only hours away and officers had been warned that they might face armed opposition. Scotland Yard refused to say yesterday whether a gun was found with O'Neill.

The Police Complaints Au-

thority is investigating the death and an inquest will be held. Shane O'Neill and the other four men being held under the Prevention of Terrorism Act were meanwhile being questioned in the secure



Diarmuid O'Neill photograph by ITN

unit at Paddington Green police station. Diarmuid O'Neill, 27, was shot when police broke into a guest-house in Glenhorne Road, Hammersmith, while his brother was arrested at the home they shared with their sister, Siobhain, in Averill Street, Fulham.

Their parents, Eoghan and Theresa O'Neill, had settled in Hammersmith before their marriage and brought up their three children in London before retiring to west Cork in the early Nineties. Yesterday the couple were said to have had no inkling of their elder son's IRA activities until Gardaí told them about the shooting.

O'Neill was, however, well-known to police as a terrorist sympathiser and the Gardaí kept an eye on his movements

when he visited his parents. The London police had known about him since his mid-teens, when he sold *Republican News* to customers in public houses, and his commitment to the cause later drove him to steal £75,000 from the Bank of Ireland branch where he worked as a clerk after leaving the London Oratory School.

Detectives said that £34,000 went to the IRA.

Born at Queen Charlotte's Hospital in Hammersmith on June 24, 1969, Diarmuid Michael O'Neill became a model pupil at the London Oratory — the Roman Catholic grant-maintained school chosen by Tony Blair for his son. He spent six years at the school and was described by

Continued on page 2, col 4

Reaping a whirlwind, page 16

Commission grenade, page 2

EU's farm chief flees Irish demo

FRANZ FISCHLER, European Agriculture Commissioner, had to leave beef talks in Ireland by helicopter yesterday when Irish farmers blocked roads around the hotel where EU ministers were meeting (James Landale writes).

There was chaos when about 2,000 farmers broke through police barriers and reached the doors of the Hotel Europe in Killarney, Co Kerry. Holding cattle skulls, they lined up outside before being peacefully dispersed by police in riot gear.

Some 8,000 farmers in all joined the protest over the lack of compensation for losses caused by the BSE crisis.

Continued on page 2, col 4

Lib Dems join call for crackdown on stalkers

By Alice Thomson and Kate Alderson

A WOMAN made an impassioned plea at the Liberal Democrat conference yesterday for tougher laws on stalkers, saying her daughter's life had been devastated by a man who had pursued her for five years.

Doreen Holt told delegates that her 27-year-old daughter, Susan, had changed her address and her car three or four times because he kept tracking her down. "I can tell you now it is terrifying to live with," she said. "I have given her alarms so she can walk around and feel safe, but it doesn't work."

The conference passed overwhelmingly a motion calling for legislation to make stalk-

ing a criminal offence and to give victims a clear right to obtain compensation in the civil courts.

Mrs Holt, who is the prospective parliamentary candidate for Blackpool South, said she was a Tory councillor before changing to the Liberal Democrats when she saw how little interest the Government took in victims of abuse.

She was speaking just before a judge called for a change in the law after a convicted rapist who had stalked a 20-year-old blonde was found guilty of actual bodily harm. Judge Gerald Butler, QC, said: "The jury have on the evidence been able to convict this defendant of the offences with which he was charged, but I

believe that what this case shows is that the legislature must move swiftly to create a separate offence for this kind of conduct."

Susan Holt, a former Miss Blackpool, said last night that she had been shocked by her mother's speech. "My mum left me a message on my answer machine saying what she had done."

"I know the man who has made my life hell for the last five years. The problem with it is that he will be in all of this."

Lancashire police said last night that they received a complaint from Susan Holt last week and it was "under investigation".

Judge's call, page 3
Conference reports, page 9



Susan Holt: a target

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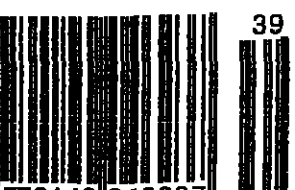


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Patriot games went on too long without getting to the crunch

Just before Paddy Ashdown spoke to his conference at Brighton yesterday I came close to joining his party. This was when its delegates began to giggle at their leader's own video curtain-raiser. To the strains of Elgar we saw Paddy on a building site; and the strains of Smetana we observed him in a cornfield; and Beethoven accompanied him into a conservatory. For five minutes Mr Ashdown bellowed through the British Isles to gentle rhythms and in soft focus, looking tough but

tender. His speech pledged to help his countrymen "find the hero in themselves". Happily for the Liberal leader, a camera crew, sound crew, producer, video-editor and PR adviser had helped us to find the hero in Mr Ashdown. And his party flattered. There remains one party in Britain with its pap-detectors intact. Unaccountably, Ashdown slouched in, chewing. What, and why? He was to make something in his speech of his soldiering past but after that video we half-expected him to abscond from the rafters, not to

saunter on to the rostrum like an off-duty GI. If it were gum he was chewing, would he stick it on to the lectern? If a peppermint, would he suck it up during the passage on patriotism? Whatever it was, it must have been swallowed or dissolved. "I want to take a long, hard look," cried the brave marine, eyes narrowed to flinty slits, "at some unfashionable subjects." We wondered which. Flares? Kipper ties? But no. Courage, Leadership and Patriotism were his chosen ta-



MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

boos, and the Liberal leader was about to appropriate all three to himself. In doing so, Captain Ashdown had the delicacy to observe that he was only embodying our courage, leadership and patriotism — doing it by proxy, so to speak, for the nation. Modestly he acknowledged that Churchill had had much the same thought. Deploring the

debauching of patriotism by Tories he added that a true patriot would vote for the opposition parties. Eschewing leader-worship, Ashdown subtly recommended it in his own case. An angry denunciation of "phony figures" in politics drew support while news that one 21-year-old in seven in Britain is now illiterate drew gasps. There

was also a furious indictment of "negative campaigning" sentiments applauded with a fervour otherwise accorded only to his harsh and personal attack on John Major, descending at one point to mimicry. "My next wish," he declared, "is for Sally." A nervous hush descended upon the audience. "I met her on the Hardcliffe and Withywood estate in Bristol." You could have heard a pin drop. "She is a young mother." A thousand Liberal Democrats groaned inwardly. This was taking

honesty too far. Then it dawned on us that Sally was being cited only as an illustration of the benefits-trap. We breathed again. A speech which began somewhat in the manner of Alastair Cooke's Letter from America skirted the lower slopes of Martin Luther King, toyed with sub-Shakespearean soliloquy and lurched towards a Blairite barking of abstract nouns settled finally into a stale rant. Ashdown made much of his willingness to listen. Listening yesterday he will have heard his party's

delight at every attack on the Tories. But did he hear their longing for a similar assault on Labour? It was not a particularly bad speech: just a speech with no core and too many lists, whose content never matched its stylistic pretensions. And it was far, far too long. Mr Ashdown likes to quote Churchill. He should have remembered Churchill's famous apology: "I am sorry to deliver a long speech. I have not had time to write a short one."

Conference report, page 9

Brussels plans to order small firms to consult staff

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

THE Commission of the European Union lobbied a new grenade into Britain's pre-electoral skirmishing yesterday when it proposed a scheme that would oblige all companies employing more than about 50 workers to consult staff on their business plans.

The plan, which would greatly extend a year-old EU law on company "works councils", would not immediately affect Britain because it would be enacted under the Maas-tricht Social Protocol, from which the Government won an opt-out. However, the Labour Party's pledge to sign up to the protocol means that Tony Blair will come under pressure to take a stance on a measure that is unpopular with the business world that he is now busy courting. The scheme is the latest in a stream of EU labour measures that are being fiercely resisted by the Government.

Courts martial face human rights test

BY A STAFF REPORTER

THE legality of Britain's court martial system is to be challenged today in a test case which could trigger dozens of compensation claims and a multimillion-pound bill for the Ministry of Defence.

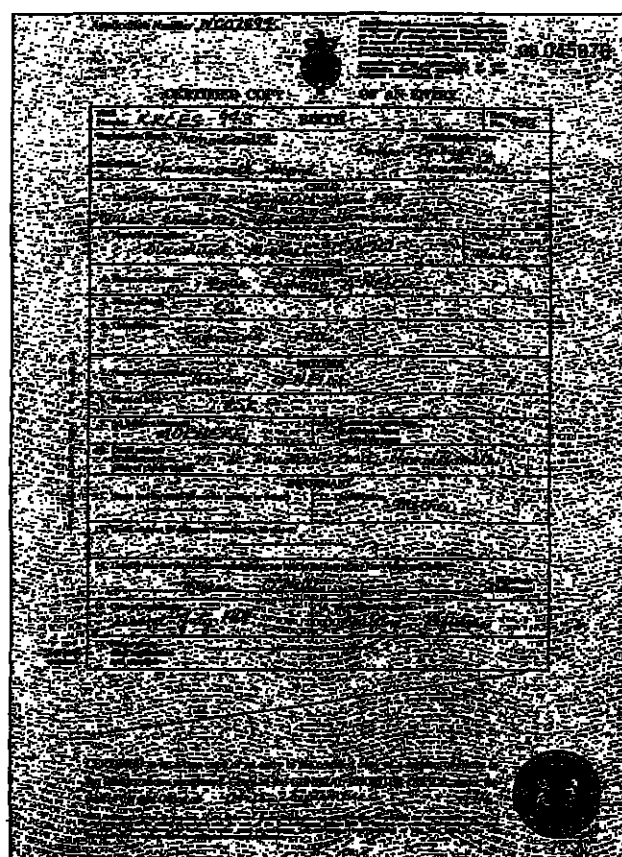
The case of Alec Findlay, a Falklands veteran who was jailed by the Army for two years for threatening to kill fellow soldiers, is the first to be brought in the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg. Mr Findlay, 34, who was suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder at the time, and other army and

RAF personnel who have faced courts martial want the system scrapped as a breach of human rights.

They say that the conduct of courts martial contravenes the human rights convention which guarantees the right to a fair trial. Their claims are based on differences between courts martial and civilian criminal court procedures in Britain, such as the lack of trial by jury. Government lawyers will tell the human rights court that discrepancies are justified, taking account of the special needs of service life.

other 14 member states. Most already have laws requiring worker consultation and welcome the Commission's scheme as a way of ensuring fairer competition and avoiding so-called "social dumping". The term is applied on the Continent to countries or companies that are deemed to be undercutting competitors with low wages and payroll taxes.

The scheme requiring employers to "inform and consult" workers would affect companies with more than a few dozen workers, Commission officials said. The threshold figure would be decided later. The law on work councils, which came into force last weekend, applies only to multinational companies with at least 1,000 workers.



O'Neill was born and brought up in Hammersmith

IRA suspect was a model pupil

Continued from page 1

the head teacher, John McIntosh, yesterday as being polite and well-behaved. "I remember him as a boy with bright ginger hair. He was a well-behaved boy who got on well with anybody. He just got on with his work. He went through school keeping his head down. He was just a very pleasant boy who was never in trouble."

But in 1988, he came to the attention of the Metropolitan Police when £75,000 went missing from the Shepherd's Bush branch of the Bank of Ireland where he had been working for a year. O'Neill was forced to resign, charged with theft, and subsequently sentenced to 12 months in a young offenders' institution.

He never appeared in court again and friends were astonished yesterday to learn of his IRA links. A former neighbour in Hammersmith said: "Di-

armid is a big guy — 6ft 3in — but skinny. I would describe him as a shy and gentle giant. The idea he was capable of being a 'sleeper' just seems completely daft."

And Tina Joval, who runs the corner shop near the O'Neills' Averill Street house, said: "I can't believe it. Diarmuid is such a nice person. The whole family would buy their sweets and their newspapers from us — the Daily Mail and The Guardian on a Tuesday."

Mrs Joval last saw O'Neill late on Sunday night when he bought two bars of chocolate. "Diarmuid was always buying chocolate from us, he couldn't get enough. That night he was very unshaven and looked all done in. I assumed that he had been working too hard — I knew he had been decorating."

Reaping a whirlwind, page 16

Thatcher attacks 'immoral' society

BY ANDREW PIERCE
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

BARONESS Thatcher last night launched a passionate attack on the permissive society and mourned the decline in British moral standards.

She denounced street corner muggers, petty burglars, and terrorists. "The decline in law and order has rendered all of us less secure than we of a right should be," she said.

Lady Thatcher was delivering a lecture at the Institute of United States Studies in which she said that people were now confronted almost daily by those for whom the words "justice" and "right" had no meaning.

She said: "So too do we see around us the licentiousness of modern society manifested in popular culture. We have witnessed a coarsening of everything from art to music to literature to film."

"But for some people there seems to be nothing beyond the pale — for them freedom has no limits."

The speech, one of the biggest the former Prime Minister has addressed to the domestic agenda in Britain for a year, attacked the arrival of the "politically correct" brigade. "The idea that some things are more politically correct than others is not new of course."

"It has been the guiding sentiment of tyrants in every age," Lady Thatcher warned against being enticed down the rutted and muddy road of socialism. She also hit out at the European Union which could ensnare Britain in "a morass of stifling regulations and government controls whether led by our own socialists or those in Brussels."

She said freedom and civilisation were conditions that required great effort thought and commitment. "We must constantly affirm that our Western civilisation is worthy of an unflinching and unapologetic commitment to its perpetuation."

Labour attacks SNP on eve of conference

The Scottish National Party starts its annual conference in Inverness today under attack from Labour for "sitting on the fence" on devolution. A new Labour poster campaign criticised the SNP for failing to clarify how it would vote in a referendum on a Scottish Parliament if Tony Blair won the next general election. Labour has committed itself to a two-question referendum pending an election victory. Two posters, which will be driven around Inverness over the next two days, use the image of dice to convey the message that under Labour devolution would be a "certainty", whereas under the SNP it would be a "gamble."

State school exam targets

State schools will be required by law to publish annual targets to raise their examination scores to the level of the top 25 per cent, under government proposals launched yesterday. Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, said schools would set their own targets for improvement in English, mathematics and science from next year.

INLA prisoner on run

A republican prisoner jailed for plotting a bombing campaign in England three years ago is being hunted in Northern Ireland after failing to return to prison after attending his mother's funeral in Manchester. Liam Heffernan, 34, an INLA member, was given compassionate parole from the top security Maghaberry Prison in Co Antrim last week. He failed to return as agreed by lunchtime last Thursday.

Bishop apologises

The former bishop Roderick Wright yesterday apologised to his family for the scandal surrounding his secret double life and told them that he would not be returning to work as a priest. He made a ten-minute telephone call to his brother, Donald, in Aberdeen after learning that his sister was ill with stress. He said that he was not in Britain but hoped to return eventually.

Major's libel lawyer

One of the country's leading libel lawyers has been secured by John Major to deal with the subpoena summoning him to appear in a £1 million libel case on the eve of the Conservative Party conference. Charles Gray, QC, is expected to contest moves from The Guardian newspaper that Mr Major give evidence for them in an action being brought by Neil Hamilton, Conservative MP for Tatton.

Treasury woman cleared

The Treasury high-flier who applied to be a Labour candidate broke no Civil Service rules, it was announced yesterday. Helen Goodman, 38, was at the centre of controversy when she was identified as the author of Treasury proposals to dismantle the welfare state. Miss Goodman withdrew from the shortlist of the safe Labour seat of Barnsley East because of the furore.

Unlikely intervention by Tory knight of the shires

BY ANDREW PIERCE AND JAMES LANDALE

THE intervention by Sir Nicholas Bonsor in the Tory single-currency row came hours after he returned from a weekend at the country estate of one of Britain's most influential Euro-sceptics.

He was a guest of Lord Pearson of Rannoch, a sponsor of the Bruges Group, whose President is Baroness Thatcher. The two Old Etonians spent the weekend stalking the Perthshire glens of Lord Pearson's estate at Bridge of Gaur. Europe dominated conversation.

The Minister and Lord Pearson, the unofficial whip of the Tory Euro-sceptics in the House of Lords, were appalled by Kenneth Clarke's interview which triggered

the latest bout of infighting. By the time Sir Nicholas, the MP for Upminster, returned to London on Monday with his wife Nadine, he was fired-up by the Pearson rhetoric.

But a public strike against the Chancellor was the last thing on the mind of Sir Nicholas, who does not court publicity.

His background is that of the old-style Tory aristocrat and landowner. A bluff, clubbable man, he is known in Westminster as one of the last remaining Tory squires. Yet the wealthy baronet and direct descendant of Admiral Lord Nelson is no stranger to controversy.

A senior backbencher who served on several Commons

committees, Sir Nicholas did not shy away from criticising Ministers before he joined the Government in July last year.

An ambitious man, Sir Nicholas, 53, unsuccessfully fought Sir Marcus Fox two years ago for the coveted post as chairman of the Tory backbench 1922 Committee and Sir Nicholas was only second choice for the interview with the BBC World at One. He was a last-minute suggestion by the production staff after Sir Marcus was unavailable.

Yesterday morning the Minister was relaxing in his London flat, having read press reports about the Prime Minister's apparent annoyance with the Chancellor, when Sir Edward Heath went on the BBC Today programme.

The comments of the former Prime Minister, who accused the Tory right of trying to force Mr Clarke out of office, further depressed Sir Nicholas. At mid-morning a producer from the World at One rang.

Sir Nicholas agreed to a five-minute interview which was recorded over the telephone before the programme went on air at 1pm. He did not seek prior permission from the Foreign Office.

By 1.30pm unnamed officials from Downing Street and the Foreign Office telephoned Sir Nicholas at home. The "riot act" was read over the telephone.

Sir Nicholas, who according to his friends had not realised the impact his remarks would make, agreed to say that he had misinterpreted the press reports of the Chancellor's remarks and the Prime Minister's response.

Letters, page 17

Tories break ranks

Continued from page 1

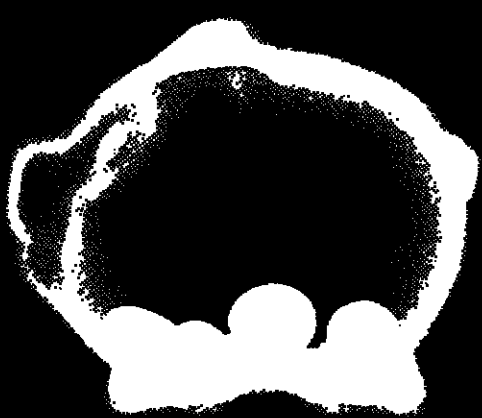
beyond acceptable limits. Many are furious with Mr Clarke and Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, was regarded as having given him less than full backing in interviews yesterday.

Mr Howard instead emphasised his opposition to a federal Europe, which many Euro-sceptics believe would be the inevitable consequence of monetary union.

Mr Clarke's friends, meanwhile, launched a lightning attack on a right-wing conspiracy to force him from office and calling on Sir Nicholas to resign.

Sir Edward Heath, the former Prime Minister, accused the Euro-sceptics of "undoubtedly" trying to "stampede" Mr Major into changing his policy and his Chancellor. Sir

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Judge urges change in the law to make stalking a criminal offence

Stalker's lawyer rebuked for comments to victim

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

A JUDGE has called for stalking to be made a criminal offence after taking the unusual step of criticising a defence barrister for suggesting that a woman had invited her stalker's attentions by "dressing like a queen bee".

After calling Clarence Morris a "very dangerous man" who should probably be sent to Rampton high-security mental hospital, Judge Butler criticised David Stanton, for the defence, who had said to the jury: "Is it fair that a young lady who dresses to attract, the queen bee attracting the drones, the queen bee that dresses to kill, cries out foul because somebody finds her attractive?"

Mr Stanton said that Perry Southall, 20, had played up to her resemblance to the "over-exposed" television actress Pamela Anderson. He said she "ran the risk" of attracting attention as she dressed to please men. "Can she complain if a man, in this case the defendant, finds her attractive? That, in a way, is his right."

After the jury of six men and six women convicted Morris of occasioning actual bodily harm and common assault, Judge Butler turned to Mr Stanton and said that while he had "no pleasure" in doing so, he wanted to make a point to the court. "Mr Stanton, in your closing speech you made a number of comments about women in general — and Miss Southall in particular — presenting themselves in a man-



Clarence Morris, left, "a dangerous man", and David Stanton, his barrister, criticised by judge

ner designed to attract men and what they must expect as a result. Might I publicly entirely dissociate myself from those comments, which I believe ought never to have been made," he said.

The judge also called for an urgent change in the law. "The jury have on the evidence been able to convict this defendant of the offences with which he was charged, but I believe that what this case shows is that the legislature must move swiftly to create a separate offence for this kind of conduct."

The jury at Southwark Crown Court was told that Morris became obsessed with Miss Southall and subjected her to an eight-month campaign of harassment. After their first meeting when he walked into the dental surgery where she worked in White-chapel, east London, he bom-

barded her with letters and presents. He continually visited the practice, banging on the windows and shouting: "Perry, Perry, I love you."

Twice he had threatened her with a blade-edged wallpaper scraper, on one occasion following her as she walked to her car and on another brandishing the implement as he screamed his declarations of love for her.

Miss Southall told the jury that she had been left a nervous wreck who had lost her social life and was unable to sleep properly. "I feared for my life. I was petrified," she said.

Timothy Banks, for the prosecution, told the judge that Morris has at least 45 other convictions for offences including rape, indecent assault, burglary and possessing an offensive weapon. In 1979 he was jailed for six years

at Bristol Crown Court for raping a 15-year-old girl. In 1992 he was sent to Guy's Hospital for a 12-month course of treatment under the Mental Health Act for affray and a knife offence.

Adjourning sentencing to October 22 for medical reports, the judge said that Morris was a very dangerous man who must be sent to a secure hospital to protect the public.

Outside the court, Mr Stanton was asked if he regretted his words. He replied: "The words I used to the jury came as a result of her evidence in the witness box in which she admitted that she dressed in the way she did in order to be attractive to me." He refused to comment further.

Judge Butler later said he would not be reporting Mr Stanton to the Bar council as he had "simply got carried away with himself" during his final address.

Both the Labour and Conservative parties have pledged to make stalking a criminal offence. In July, David Maclean, a Junior Home Office Minister, issued a list of proposals for laws that are expected to be in a Bill introduced in the next session of Parliament.

Among these is a civil measure that would allow victims of harassment to seek an injunction against the perpetrator. Breaking the injunction would be punishable with up to five years in prison. A new offence of causing harassment or alarm was also among those detailed.



Perry Southall, said to resemble Pamela Anderson

Sex case payout police chief to be investigated

By PAUL WILKINSON

THE chief constable whose force paid £165,000 to settle claims of sexual harassment brought by a woman detective was last night accused of mishandling the investigation into her case.

A letter containing the complaint against David Burke, head of the North Yorkshire force, was handed to officials of the police authority as they met in an emergency session yesterday to discuss the payment to former DC Libby Ashurst, disclosed last week.

David Bramhall, the authority's clerk, said there had been no time to study the letter in detail but at the end of the four-hour meeting Mr Burke, 57, disclosed that he and others of his most senior officers were the subject of a complaint relating to the conduct of the inquiry. He said: "I believe my hands are clean."

He declined to detail the complaints or name the individual who had brought them. The allegations will now be investigated by a chief constable from another force.

The authority has also requested a separate outside investigation by the chief inspector of constabulary and Price Waterhouse, the force's own auditors, into how the settlement with Miss Ashurst was achieved.

Angela Harris, the authority chairman, said it was also asking for the inclusion of an independent "person of suitable standing" to "reassure the public of the integrity of the process".

The authority meeting had been called in the wake of mounting public concern over the size of the payment to Miss

Ashurst, 27, who has been forced to retire after suffering harassment which led to indecent assault while stationed with the CID at Harrogate, North Yorkshire. She is still traumatised.

The chief inspector, Colin Hallinan, the head of the CID in Harrogate at the time, was fined £1,500 and transferred to administrative duties at the force headquarters near Northallerton. He is appealing. Mrs Harris said that she and her colleagues thought he should have been dismissed.

In a statement issued after the authority meeting she said they had agreed to settle Miss Ashurst's claim because counsel had advised them that her case was exceptionally strong. She added: "The Police Authority is concerned that it should be and be seen to be accountable to the public we serve."

"The authority has acted throughout on legal advice, including advice from a barrister who specialises in employment law."



Ashurst payment has brought complaints

Expensive tastes earn Japanese higher salaries

JAPANESE workers seconded to a Tokyo company's London office were paid three times more than their British colleagues so they could buy exotic Japanese food, a tribunal was told yesterday.

Three former Quick Corporation executives, Cliff Wakeman, 45, Stewart Mitchell, 45, and Ashok Solanki, 44, are seeking a seven-figure compensation sum from the company. They claim Noriaki Nakajima, their former deputy managing director, sacked them unfairly in 1994 and discriminated

racially by giving them lower salaries and fewer job prospects.

Mr Solanki, who works up to 18 hours a day for £39,500, claims he was passed over for promotion by a junior, less experienced Japanese colleague, who was being paid £120,000. But Mr Nakajima told Stratford industrial tribunal yesterday that the pay discrepancy was quite normal. "You cannot compare salaries between local staff and Japanese seconded because we apply a different salary scheme."

He admitted the cost of living in

Britain was "substantially lower" than in Japan but said staff brought over from Tokyo needed an attractive pay offer as an incentive to work overseas. And he added: "Not everything is cheaper here. You have to remember that for Japanese we have to buy some special Japanese food as well, which can be quite expensive." He admitted keeping the wages of Japanese staff at the London branch secret but said that was natural in any firm. He denied that two British staff sent to Japan did not receive the same benefits.

Quick Corporation had a written policy of non-discrimination on the ground of ethnic origin or religion, but Mr Nakajima said he did not believe he had breached this. Mr Nakajima admits unfairly dismissing the three men but denies racial discrimination. The tribunal was earlier told how Mr Nakajima flew into a rage during a meeting with Mr Wakeman and humiliated him in front of fellow workers, saying he had a "strange skin colour" and "a head like a rock or football". The hearing continues.

Boys went on run with guns

A TEENAGER who admitted handling four stolen guns was given a last chance of freedom yesterday.

The 17-year-old, who has a series of burglary convictions, was arrested after a gun owner discovered that rifles, pistols and ammunition had been taken from a cabinet at his home in Chalfont St Peter, Buckinghamshire.

Police began searching for the youth and his 15-year-old

friend as they went on the run with the weapons. The pair tried to sell them to other teenagers and later took potshots at a wall.

At Aylesbury Crown Court, Judge John Slack was told that the boys were found with the four guns — two target rifles, a Browning pistol, another pistol and ammunition.

The 17-year-old, who cannot be named for legal reasons, was given 28 days in a bail

hostel before a decision is made about his future. Judge Slack told him: "I believe that there is about one last hope and that is to get you away from your present environment and to some degree of controlled environment where, if you are ever going to make something of your life, you will at least have a start."

The other boy was put under a two-year supervision order.

Man calls off £6,000 sex change operation to wed

By A STAFF REPORTER

A MAN named Pamela has called off a sex change operation after falling in love with a girl named Sue. Pamela Turner, 31, will be changing his name back to Paul and getting married after realising two weeks ago he was in love with divorcee Sue Render.

The couple plan to marry in six weeks' time at Selby, North Yorks, Register Office, as soon as Mr Turner's name is changed back by deed poll. For the past two years he has been dressing in women's clothes, and wearing makeup and earrings.

Yesterday he announced that he would be throwing away his female wardrobe. He has also abandoned hormone treatment and plans for a sex change operation after attending gender clinics at a hospital in Leeds. The operation would have cost the NHS £6,000 not including the hormone treatment. Mr Turner said: "I do not need that now. I'm happy to be a man as long as Sue is at my side." Mr Turner, of Selby, said he would be wearing a suit at the wedding. He said previous relationships with women had proved a disaster before he "came out", but with Ms Render something had clicked.

He said: "I feel like a million dollars. I've known Sue for a while but never had any sexual feelings for her until now. I feel more nervous now than when I first came out as a woman. It's a strange feeling but I have nothing to prove. Sue loves me for what I am and that's all that matters."

Mr Turner was sacked three

weeks ago from his job as a care assistant in a nursing home after, he alleges, hurtful remarks by one or two women not connected with the home. He came out in 1994 after saying he could no longer stand being a female trapped in a male body. He also claimed he was once barred from a Working Men's Club after complaints from lady members that he was using the women's toilets.

Ms Render, 35, who has been married twice, said Mr Turner was the man of her dreams. She added: "We're madly in love and very happy. Paul has got caring female emotions which is a nice change when you have been ill-treated by blokes."

She added that she and Mr Turner had known each other

for four years. She said: "Two weeks ago we just got together and it has been brilliant ever since. We are like one person. Paul is attracted to me because I'm so caring and I love the fact he's not like any other man I've ever met. Most of the ones I've known have treated me badly but he has such a caring side and so many feminine qualities. We're made for each other, and I can't see us ever splitting up. It's true love."

She added they had a shared interest in country walks and tarot cards. Paul had told her she was the only woman he had ever been happy with. "It was wonderful and we're both looking forward to the wedding day. It's going to be the greatest moment of both our lives."



To have and to hold: Paul Turner and Sue Render

Calaboose calls again for cowboy on the run

By ROBIN YOUNG

AN ESCAPED prisoner who was a Wild West fanatic managed to evade recapture for four years by changing his names to those of two of his cowboy heroes.

Colin Tough, a founder member of the Portsmouth Wild West Association, changed his surname to Rogers in honour of the singing cowboy of that name, Roy, "pardner" to the silver screen's most famous horse, Trigger.

The escaped convict, sentenced in 1991 to nine years' imprisonment for a string of armed robberies, affrays, arson and perjury, felt it might invite suspicion to adopt the full identity of Roy Rogers, though, and instead chose the forename Alan, in tribute to Alan Ladd, the star of *Shane* and many other Westerns.

Yesterday Tough, 49, was back in the calaboose having been rounded up by a posse of lawmen while wandering down West Street in Fareham, Hampshire. He had been living in the town as Alan Rogers since absconding from Garth prison in Preston, Lancashire, in November 1992.

The convict, who loved to dress up in cowboy clothes and stetson hat, escaped when he briefly unhandcuffed while visiting his sick mother in a Lancashire hospital. Police said yesterday that Tough had assumed a new identity in Fareham, obtaining a new national insurance number and claiming social security in the name of Alan Rogers.



PUNCH, EVERY FRIDAY. THE MAGAZINE THAT UPSETS PEOPLE. PUNCH

IN PUNCH THIS WEEK, THE PECULIAR MANAGEMENT STYLE OF BRITAIN'S MOST POWERFUL PRESS BARON IS REVEALED. SOMEONE OTHER THAN PRINCE CHARLES CRITICISES MODERN ARCHITECTURE. AND WILLIAM WALDEGRAVE MP EXPLAINS WHY HE'S HAD TO GIVE UP RIPPING ROADS.

Linford's lunchbox runs Club into trouble

LINFORD Christie, the former Olympic champion, has unwittingly run a biscuit-maker into trouble. The Jacobs company latched on to an expression coined by the media when Christie and other athletes took to running in Lycra unitards and used the phrase to promote an enlarged version of their Club chocolate biscuit.

The result has been a series of complaints to the Advertising Standards Agency.

man's dream. An extra one and a half inches in the lunchbox department."

The *double entendre* is believed by advertising experts to refer to the phrase "Linford's lunchbox", which lexicologists identify as a sports commentator's description of the bulging contents of Mr Christie's skin-tight running shorts.

The phrase caught the public imagination and entered common usage with speed comparable to Christie's own record-

more suggestive than a picture of the new Club biscuit, but callers to the ASA have claimed it is a "smutty" and distasteful joke. Men in the north-east have complained in the largest numbers.

Jacobs claimed to be surprised by the reaction. Craig Walker, the firm's general manager, said: "The *double entendre* follows the tradition of the *Carry On* films and British seaside humour. We believe it falls on the right side of the line dividing good from bad taste." The ASA

Labour will not be browbeaten by gun lobby, Straw says

By STEWART TENDLER
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR is committed to outlawing handguns and will not bow to pressure from the gun lobby, Jack Straw, the Shadow Home Secretary, told a national conference of senior police officers yesterday.

Speaking weeks before the release of Lord Cullen's report on the Dunblane massacre, Mr Straw said: "The status quo the handgun lobby seeks to defend is the status which killed innocent adults and children

in Hungerford and again in Dunblane. Sport is about the celebration of life. Handguns are about death. They have no place in our society."

Mr Straw said the handgun lobby had been ferociously active, inundating MPs with material and capturing the Conservative members of the Commons Home Affairs Select Committee, who decided against a gun ban. Labour, he said, would not be browbeaten.

He told the annual conference of the Police Superintendents' Association at Stratford-upon-Avon: "We owe it to the parents of Dunblane and the memory of their children to ensure that the chances of such a tragedy happening again are greatly reduced. The law should make it clear that the use and ownership of any kind of gun was not a right but a privilege. Mr Straw said. The police should have an absolute discretion to refuse a licence and not give reasons for so doing. Handguns were designed to kill people. The public found the notion that they could be used for sport to be grotesque and "for that reason

our starting point is that the use and ownership of handguns by civilians should be banned". The only exceptions would be handguns for occupational uses or target-shooting in the case of 22 single-shot handguns, Mr Straw said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Marathon raises up to £14.5m

The Flora London Marathon is one of the United Kingdom's most successful annual fund-raising events, figures compiled from this year's event proved yesterday.

A survey of runners in the race showed that the majority were running to raise money for charity. The 21,409 runners surveyed had pledged to raise more than £14.5 million. The total that the 27,124 runners who participated might raise could be as much as £14.5 million.

Security loses bite

Two German shepherd puppies bought to deter thieves after a burglary at a house in Peshaw, Tyne and Wear, have been stolen. The ten-week-old black puppies were taken after intruders broke into their compound.

Alarms for pupils

The school in Launceston where Caroline Dickinson, the teenager murdered while on a school holiday to France, was a pupil, has issued students with personal attack alarms to take on a residential field trip.

Bird flown home

An injured housemartin is to be flown by an airline to its winter home in North Africa. Air Algérie has offered to carry the bird, which is unable to migrate after a cat in Ivybridge, Devon, tore out its wing feathers.

Pregnant girls

The number of girls under 16 getting pregnant has increased after a three-year decline. There were 8.3 conceptions per 1,000 girls aged 13 to 15 in England and Wales in 1994, according to the Office for National Statistics.

Aces in the hole

Four members of a golf club hit holes in one at the same hole on the same day of a competition. The Pavenham Park Golf Club near Bedford is contacting The Guinness Book of Records to see if the feat is a first.

Yew tree project

More than 13,000 yew trees are to be planted in parishes throughout Britain in a millennium project launched yesterday by the botanist David Bellamy. They will be planted in churchyards, schools, parks and gardens.

Zeppelin birthday

Zeppelina Williams, who was named after the German airship that crashed in flames near her home at Great Wigborough, Essex, as her mother gave birth in 1916, celebrated her 80th birthday yesterday.

Violent crime up by highest amount for eight years

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

Violent crime rose by 10 per cent in England and Wales during the year to the end of June, according to figures published yesterday. The rise in recorded offences of violence, including robbery, was the largest for eight years and ended a three-year fall in overall crime.

Overall, crime recorded by the police rose by 0.4 per cent in England and Wales to 5.1 million offences. But a Home Office survey of 16,000 households suggested that the actual level of crime was much higher at 19.1 million crimes last year.

The survey also found that in spite of falls in recorded crime during the past three years, only 4 per cent of people believed that it had fallen and 75 per cent felt it had risen.

The British Crime Survey showed a 2 per cent increase in offences between 1993-95 compared with an 8 per cent fall in the equivalent crimes recorded by the 43 police forces in England and Wales. It was the smallest increase recorded since the survey started in 1981. The rise in violent offences recorded by police is reflected by the survey, which found an increase of 17 per cent. It reports a 5 per cent fall in burglaries and 8 per cent fall in thefts of private vehicles.

It also found that 11 per cent of women never went out after dark and crime-related reasons were given by 31 per cent of women for staying at home after dark.

Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, said that the rise in recorded violent crime was a matter of extreme concern: "There is no room for complacency, one crime of violence is one too many."

The Home Secretary also expressed disappointment that the public still believed that crime was rising by a big amount. Mr Howard highlighted falls in recorded crime against property, including drops in burglary, theft, and theft from and of motor vehicles. But the small rise in recorded crime was seized on by opposition parties anxious to discredit the Government's law and order policies. Jack Straw, the Shadow Home Secretary, said: "The continuing rise in violent crime is particularly alarming. It is these crimes that cause the public more concern and force them to change their way of life."

He accused ministers of failing to tackle the underlying causes of crime, deal with antisocial behaviour or overhaul the juvenile justice system.

Violent crimes rose by 31,100 or 10 per cent to 331,000, the largest increase in eight years. However, violent crime was only 6 per cent of all crime recorded in the year to the end of June. Life-threatening offences of violent crime rose by 15 per cent to 21,100, and less serious offences by 10 per cent to 207,500. The number of homicides, including murder, manslaughter and infanticide, was 730 compared with 729 in the year to June 1995.

Sexual offences rose by 2 per cent to 30,432. The increase included a 14 per cent rise in recorded rapes, which included a number of multiple rapes. Recorded rapes fell in only the East Midlands region. There were increases of 23 per cent to 640 offences in the areas covered by the Cheshire, Cumbria, Greater Manchester, Lancashire and Merseyside police forces; 17 per cent to 300 offences in the areas covered by the Hampshire, Surrey and Sussex forces; and 17 per cent to 2,100 offences in London and the South East.

Robbery rose by 15 per cent to 72,300, with most recorded robberies being muggings in the streets. Cambridgeshire recorded a 68 per cent increase in robbery, Warwickshire 56 per cent, Cheshire 53 per cent, and Merseyside 46 per cent.

Property offences including burglary, theft and fraud fell by 0.3 per cent to 4.8 million crimes, the third consecutive annual drop. Burglary offences fell by 1 per cent to 1.2 million, with domestic burglaries dropping by 3 per cent from 650,000 to 630,000, much of it the result of police initiatives such as Operation Bumblebee. But burglaries in other premises rose from 579,700 to 582,900.

Vehicle offences fell by 10,000 from 1,331 million to 1,321 million, with thefts from and thefts of motor vehicles decreasing by 1 per cent and 0.4 per cent respectively.



Mr Bogie died suddenly of cancer in quarantine

Diplomat criticises rabies law after pet dog dies

By VALERIE ELLIOTT
WHITEHALL EDITOR

A SENIOR Danish diplomat is demanding a change to Britain's Victorian quarantine rules after his family's pet dog died "in a prison cage". Henrik Sorensen, the Danish consul in London, has written a letter of complaint to the Foreign Office about the incident, saying that his family "will only remember England for its cruelty to animals".

He and his family are particularly upset because they had no idea that Mr Bogie, their 13-year-old English cocker spaniel, was ill, then learnt that the dog had died and had been cremated without them seeing the animal.

They were also angry at receiving the dog's ashes in a makeshift urn made from a coffee jar wrapped in a dirty plastic bag.

Last night Mr Sorensen, who lives in Chelsea, said: "I certainly will not be buying another dog while I am here in England. I should have known better. Other colleagues have told me they prefer to leave their pets with a friend or relative than put them through the quarantine period in Britain. But Mr Bogie was part of the family and we wanted him with us."

Mr Sorensen, his American



The Sorensen family with Mr Bogie's lead and the coffee jar containing his ashes

wife Charae, and seven-year-old daughter Christina, made weekly visits to Andrew's Kennels, Horsham, West Sussex, from June when their pet started its compulsory six-month quarantine period.

Towards the end of August John Luckhurst, a veterinary surgeon at the kennels, telephoned Mr Sorensen to inform him that Mr Bogie had developed kidney cancer and had died suddenly. Under the strict quarantine rules laid down by the Ministry of Agriculture to prevent rabies spreading in Britain, the dog's body had to be cremated immediately after the post-mortem examination.

The family was so incensed by the treatment of their dog that Mr Sorensen decided to write to the Foreign Office. He said that his family would always remember "that it was

here our English cocker spaniel, who actually came back to its roots, was sent to prison and had to die on a cold cement floor... without his loved ones".

Mr Sorensen said last night that he was convinced his dog died "due to lack of exercise and — but not least — not being among his loved ones". He was generous about the care given by staff at the kennels — the family cat, Bluey, is in quarantine at the same place until December — but he described the plight of the animals locked in cages as "pitiful".

Last night Robin Silver, owner of the kennels, said he deeply regretted the death of Mr Bogie but added: "The dog was getting on in age and was 13 years old."

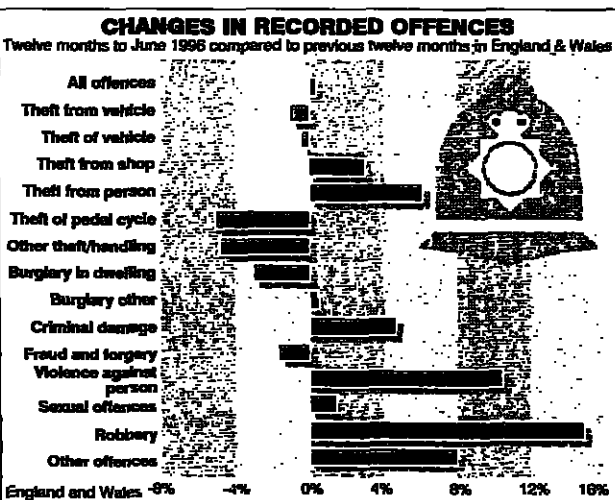
Anti-rabies laws have operated in Britain since 1897 and

have always been a scourge for diplomats and foreign businessmen.

John Luckhurst, the vet who attended Mr Bogie, said last night that he had written a post-mortem report blaming the dog's death on the rupture of a fast-growing cancer. Samples had been sent to the Ministry of Agriculture laboratory in Weybridge to check for rabies but these were clear.

Mr Luckhurst, a vet for 33 years, said he believed quarantine was the only way to keep rabies out of the country. "I honestly believe that there would be far more expense and heartache if rabies came into this country. It would be disastrous."

"It's all very well to talk about the civilised countries but just think of India and the Middle East where rabies is endemic."



Simon Jenkins, page 16

Investigative Psychology Conference

How serial killers move ever closer to their home

By RUSSELL JENKINS

POLICE investigating serial killers should focus on finding the spot where the murderers abducted their victims rather than where they dumped the bodies.

The "point of fatal encounter", where the victim is chosen and kidnapped, is much more closely related to the offender's home and his daily routine, new research suggests. Maurice Godwin, a former police officer from North Carolina, is conducting research into geographical profiling involving 54 American serial killers. He is a third-year PhD student at Liverpool University's investigative psychology unit. He told the

fourth International Investigative Psychology Conference on Merseyside yesterday that police traditionally favoured psychological profiling built up from an examination of the site where the body was found. But an analysis of the crimes of the 54 killers, who had each murdered at least ten victims, disclosed that the average distance between the killer's home and his chosen dumping ground was 14.3 miles while the abduction area was only 1.4 miles away.

At each successive murder the killer would travel a smaller distance both to choose and grab his victim and to get rid of her body. A

killer would travel considerable distances to dump a body for the first four or five murders but by the ninth or tenth murder he "is usually almost back at his home". Mr Godwin added: "You look at the last of the series of body dump sites rather than the first."

"The psychology of this is that as the killer becomes more confident with his crimes, he incorporates the abduction and dumping of his victims into his daily lifestyle and activities, which are normally close to home."

Mr Godwin said the team investigating the crimes of the Yorkshire Ripper could have focused on Chapelthorpe, Leeds's red-light district where four of his victims were picked up. They would have learnt much about the murderer's lifestyle by studying the "victims' targeted network."

"Police are overwhelmingly concerned with offenders' characteristics and totally neglect victimology, the study of the victim and their lifestyle." Police officers, secret service agents and customs officers are no smarter at spotting liars because of their shifty behaviour than the average man in the street, the conference was told.

That stereotype does not hold true, according to an investigation carried out at Leicester University for The Netherlands police. The police were advised instead to assess all suspects individually and their behaviour set against behaviour base rates.

Persuasion can win murder confessions

POLICE should not abandon psychological techniques to elicit confessions from suspected murderers after the legal furore surrounding the Colin Stagg affair, the conference was told.

Laurence Allison, who helped Mr Stagg's defence team in court, said that the case held lessons on how to obtain confessions ethically.

The case against Mr Stagg, accused of murdering Rachel Nickell on Wimbledon Common, was thrown out after Mr Justice Ognall ruled that the evidence obtained by a covert operation was inadmissible. For months a woman police

constable working with a senior psychological profiler encouraged a relationship with Mr Stagg through letters containing sexual fantasies. Mr Allison, of the Liverpool University investigative psychology unit, said: "We need to develop persuasion techniques that will enable investigators to elicit confessions ethically."

David Canter, who led the psychologists helping the Stagg defence team, said: "If the police are trying to get information that differs from what the person wishes to declare, then that runs into coercion."

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Old Bailey told that Philip Lawrence made no attempt to defend himself from knife

Accused boy 'made three confessions to head's murder'

By JOANNA BALE

A BOY aged 16, accused of murdering the headmaster Philip Lawrence, confessed three times to friends that he had stabbed a teacher, the Old Bailey was told yesterday.

He first confessed immediately after the confrontation between Mr Lawrence and the gang of youths he led, it was alleged, telling a fellow gang member: "I've made a mistake, I've stabbed a teacher."

Mr Lawrence was stabbed in front of at least 25 witnesses when he went to the aid of a 13-year-old pupil who had been attacked by the 12-strong gang as he left St George's Roman Catholic School in Maida Vale, northwest London, last December.

Later that evening, the youth allegedly admitted the crime again, telling a former gang member during a game of pool that he had stabbed a teacher twice.

The jury was told that the third confession came on New Year's Eve, when the boy asked a teenage friend how much the police knew about the attack. Mr Bevan told the court that when the gang leader, who cannot be named and is referred to as Boy A, was arrested on January 4 he declined to answer questions from police but offered no alibi.

The gang, which styled itself on the Triads, was intent on attacking the 13-year-old because one of them, Boy B, was involved in a feud with him. Boy A, aged 15 at the time, "saw it as his duty to frighten off pursuers and allow his gang to carry on the beating", Mr Bevan said. "His role was dangerous — to keep onlookers away. No doubt he was in a state of heightened tension and excitement."

A short distance from the school Mr Lawrence was confronted by Boy A, who had become separated from the rest of his gang, Mr Bevan said. The boy approached and challenged the head, Mr Lawrence may have said to him



Philip Lawrence: knife penetrated thick clothing

"What is the trouble?" or "What is going on?"

"Mr Lawrence adopted a non-threatening and conciliatory stance with his hands in his pockets to start with. Even if he made a grab for the youth's shoulder — that is the most anyone suggests seeing him do — it was no more than was merited in the circumstances," Mr Bevan said.

The youth, dressed in black jacket with his hood up over a baseball cap, said "What do you want?" or something similar. "He then in quick succession slapped Philip Lawrence in the face, kicked him on the leg and then, with a knife which appeared suddenly in his hand, stabbed Mr Lawrence once."

Mr Bevan said. "The head may never have seen the knife and he appears to have taken no defensive action in advance of the blow."

Mr Bevan said the head was wearing a vest, shirt, suit and black overcoat. "It was a hard blow which penetrated his heavy clothing. It entered on the left side of the chest, under the armpit. Philip Lawrence turned holding the left side of his chest and trotted, then staggered, through the crowd of pupils back towards the school, where he collapsed."

The boy then made his first confession. "When someone asked why, self-preservation took over and he added, 'Shut up, it wasn't my fault, we'd better split up.' Everyone appeared shocked at what the youth had said," Mr Bevan said.

"Of the many eye-witnesses, two knew the youth and saw him do it," the prosecutor said. The first, a former classmate of the gang leader, told police that he saw him deliver what looked like a punch at Mr Lawrence, the jury was told.

But the witness saw the attack from the side and would not have been able to see a knife.

"He saw Philip Lawrence immediately after the punch bend over and run back down the road," Mr Bevan said. "He knew the youth and saw what was obviously the knife injury inflicted by him." The jury was



The jury at the Old Bailey was told that Boy A and Boy B were members of a 12-strong gang which styled itself on the Triads

told that the second witness, a 14-year-old boy who was a former member of the defendant's gang, had seen the youth "kicking, punching and then stabbing the head with what looked like a knife with a pointed blade."

Mr Bevan described how the head was cared for by school staff until a medical team arrived in a helicopter. He was lying unconscious and with no pulse on the floor near the entrance to the school lobby, and doctors opened his chest to give internal cardiac massage. He was taken by ambulance to St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, where he was declared dead at midnight after surgeons had fought for more than seven hours to save him.

The knife had penetrated at least 7cm, according to the post-mortem examination. The jury was shown photographs of the holes in Mr Lawrence's clothing made by

the knife. Mr Bevan also displayed a knife, believed to be the murder weapon, found near the scene. The single-edged weapon had a 6½in blade and a double-edged tip which had tiny traces of blood, according to forensic tests.

Boy A is jointly charged with Boy B, who is aged 15, with attacking the 13-year-old. The court was told that Boy B had telephoned the school shortly after the stabbing sounding "upset and nervous", and asking to speak to Mr Lawrence. He told the police officer who answered the school telephone that he had been attacked by a gang wielding a metal bar. Mr Bevan said: "He was obviously, we suggest, trying to achieve two things: distancing himself from the gang and casting himself in the role of a victim."

After making one police statement, the boy admitted he had told lies and then changed

his story to another "deliberate attempt to deceive police", Mr Bevan said. In this account, he said he had seen the stabbing of Mr Lawrence by a gang, insisting he had not been involved, but was the only witness to say the attack happened outside the school gates, the jury was told.

Mr Bevan said: "It was a transparently, hopelessly false account. If he is lying about all or a significant number of these matters, the question is why? He was not prepared to accept that this whole disaster stems from his lack of self-control over a perceived slight from a 13-year-old."

The boy who was attacked, referred to as Boy C, spent an hour in the witness box yesterday answering questions from Mr Bevan on the events leading up to the afternoon of December 8, when he was hit over the head with an iron bar before Mr Lawrence was stabbed. Speaking largely in

monosyllables and repeatedly asked by Mr Bevan to speak up, the teenager told how he had fought with Boy B in the school corridor four days before the incident after Boy B had pushed him on the stairs. He said that they had been split up by teachers but clashed again in the playground and were threatened with expulsion. Boy C alleged that Boy B told him "that he was going to bring people to deal with me. I told him, 'Bring them if you want.'"

Boy C said he was approached by Boy B just before 3pm on the day of Mr Lawrence's death. Boy B allegedly said he wanted a fight as they headed towards a nearby recreation ground, surrounded by friends. Boy C stopped when he saw Boy B's friends in a street near the school. Mr Bevan asked: "Did you recognise them?" He replied: "I could tell. They were Triads. They were lined up against the

wall. A few of them were wearing scarves over their faces, a few had on hoods or hats."

Boy C said he returned to school to ring a friend for help. There Mr Lawrence asked him what was wrong and told him to go home. But Boy B approached him again and said that he wanted to fight. Shortly afterwards he felt the blow to his head. "I felt something hit me on the back of my head. I was dizzy. I didn't see it. It was hard. All I saw was black."

He ran off, bleeding heavily, followed by the gang and eventually escaped by asking for help at a house. The occupants took him inside and called an ambulance. He needed seven stitches for the wound.

Boy A denies murder. He and Boy B also deny conspiring to cause grievous bodily harm and wounding with intent. The case continues.



St George's school, where Mr Lawrence collapsed

Doctors call for control of 'killer' body sprays

By TIM JONES

DOCTORS called yesterday for controls over alcohol-based, fruit-scented body sprays after treating a girl who nearly died after drinking one.

The doctors at Morriston hospital, Swansea, initially thought that the girl, aged two, would die of liver poisoning after she drank 125ml of her mother's banana flavoured body spray. Analysis of the spray showed it contained three times as much alcohol as the equivalent amount of vodka.

Dr Michael McCabe, the hospital's accident and emergency consultant, said that labels showing brightly coloured fruit suggested the contents could be drunk. "Children who drink it can become seriously inebriated and risk coma and vomiting. Worse, they can die," he said.

Dr David Moore, a colleague at the hospital, said: "The bottles have a screw top which can be opened by a child. The tube inside looks like a straw, giving the impression the contents are meant to be drunk."

A spokeswoman for Superdrug, which sold the spray, disputed that the bottles resembled drinks and said they contained a bitter tasting element to deter drinking. "However, we will look again at how the sprays can be made more childproof," she said.

TV gamekeeper sacked 'because his fame made him arrogant and rude'

By RICHARD DUCE

A MOMENT of television fame made an estate gamekeeper so arrogant and abusive towards wealthy shooting clients that the landowner was forced to sack him, a tribunal was told yesterday.

After Howard Green starred on the BBC documentary *A Gamekeeper's Tale*, filmed in 1994, his behaviour allegedly became so insufferable that clients prepared to pay up to £6,000 for a day's shooting threatened to take their business elsewhere.

Major Ranulph Rayner, owner of the 2,500-acre Ashcombe estate, near Dawlish, Devon, said he eventually decided to sack Mr Green after learning that, among other liberties, the gamekeeper was mimicking his accent behind his back.

Mr Green, 33, is claiming at the industrial tribunal in Exeter that he was unfairly dismissed because the major was suffering financial trouble and wanted to let out his cottage.

Major Rayner, 61, told the hearing: "Both I and my main syndicate liked shooting. Green but his attitude became increasingly cavalier after he starred in a TV programme called *A Gamekeeper's Tale*. "He became ever less concerned about providing good shooting and more concerned with taking over as a shooter's agent. The shooting was an essential enterprise for the

estate and through Mr Green's total disregard for its welfare much of its equipment has been misplaced or ruined. "We have lost most of our valuable clients, much of our reputation and a considerable amount of income. Mr Green was dismissed for gross misconduct because he turned away our clients."

"I was told by beaters he was being disloyal and one day I heard him mimicking me in the background. One agent who arranged shoots complained that he heard Green on the radio asking 'has



Green: his boss said TV show changed him

that bastard gone yet?'. He said Mr Green was finally sacked after a party cancelled when the gamekeeper warned them they would not have a good day because they were replacing one Green himself had arranged."

Major Rayner, who is representing himself, told the tribunal that clients paid £20 for each bird and shot up to 300 birds a day.

He also claimed Mr Green had allowed hundreds of young game birds to die of thirst when he released them early during the 1995 heatwave and had cost him £8,000 in compensation after he allowed the birds to raid crops on neighbouring farms.

Executives visiting a war games activity centre on the estate vowed never to return after their day out was ruined when Green, without notice, surrounded the area with shooters, the major said.

Mr Green told the hearing: "I would never deliberately put on a bad day's shooting because I would lose my reputation. The most important thing I can do is to make every day's shooting the best because you are only judged on your last shoot."

"I have never insulted the major or acted against the interests of the estate or done anything to justify my dismissal." The hearing continues.

Insurance executive guilty of fake claim

AN INSURANCE company executive who faked a £3,300 burglary claim by hiding hi-fi and video equipment in the attic was reported to the police by his wife after their marriage broke up.

Christopher Way, a 40,000-a-year manager with Pearl Assurance, told detectives that thieves got into the house through an open side window, but Martyn Kelly, for the prosecution, said he concocted the story because he and his wife Sarah were in debt. "His marriage was on the rocks and Mrs Way was living with her parents but seeing her

police that burglars had stolen a video recorder, a camcorder and stereo system, a watch and £900 worth of compact discs. He put in a claim to Cornhill Insurance for £3,450 and was paid £3,362."

The court was told that although Way, 31, and his wife, 28, divorced in September 1995 they went on holiday to Tunisia together two months later. Mrs Way went because she said the holiday had already been paid for, Mr Kelly said.

But before going on holiday Mrs Way spotted that various hi-fi items started re-appearing in the matrimonial home at Cornhill, Newport. "She tackled Mr

items," Mr Kelly said. "But eventually he admitted to her that he had hidden them in the attic and had made a false claim."

In court Mrs Way identified the video recorder by wear marks.

Way denied fraud by submitting a false claims form but was convicted by the jury. He claimed in court that he had bought new equipment after the burglary but the jury was told that he was unable to provide receipts or proof of purchase. Way was ordered to do 200 hours of community service. Ronald Christie, for the defence, said in mitigation: "He acted in desperation because of

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Union is offer conference peace pact to Blair

By Jill Sherman, Chief Political Correspondent

TRADE unions are pressing for a deal on employment rights in the Labour Party conference next week. The Labour leadership is preparing for the possibility of a conference on issues of crucial importance, including state pensions, child benefit, the jobseeker's allowance, rail privatisation, employment rights and Party activists, who will vote this year, have put down motions in these areas that could cause conflict between old Labour and Blair. But trade unionists have fallen from 50 per cent to 30 per cent of the vote. Blair has signalled that he is prepared to try to win support from the interests of unionists.

At a private meeting of the Trades Union Congress last Thursday, Blair said he had reassured Mr Gummer that he would back him on most issues as he intended to break the link between the party and the unions.

They warned him, however, of defeat over the motion calling for full rights for all from their first day in. Some union leaders, including John Edmonds, secretary of the GMB, said the Labour leader had accepted a compromise under which workers would have a probationary period before being able to appeal against a "fair dismissal". Unions would still expect employees to have rights against unfair dismissal from the first day.

The shadow employment

team has given no sign that it is prepared to agree to the compromise. Mr Blair has previously made clear that he has no intention of honouring a pledge made by John Smith, his predecessor, to provide rights from the first day of employment.

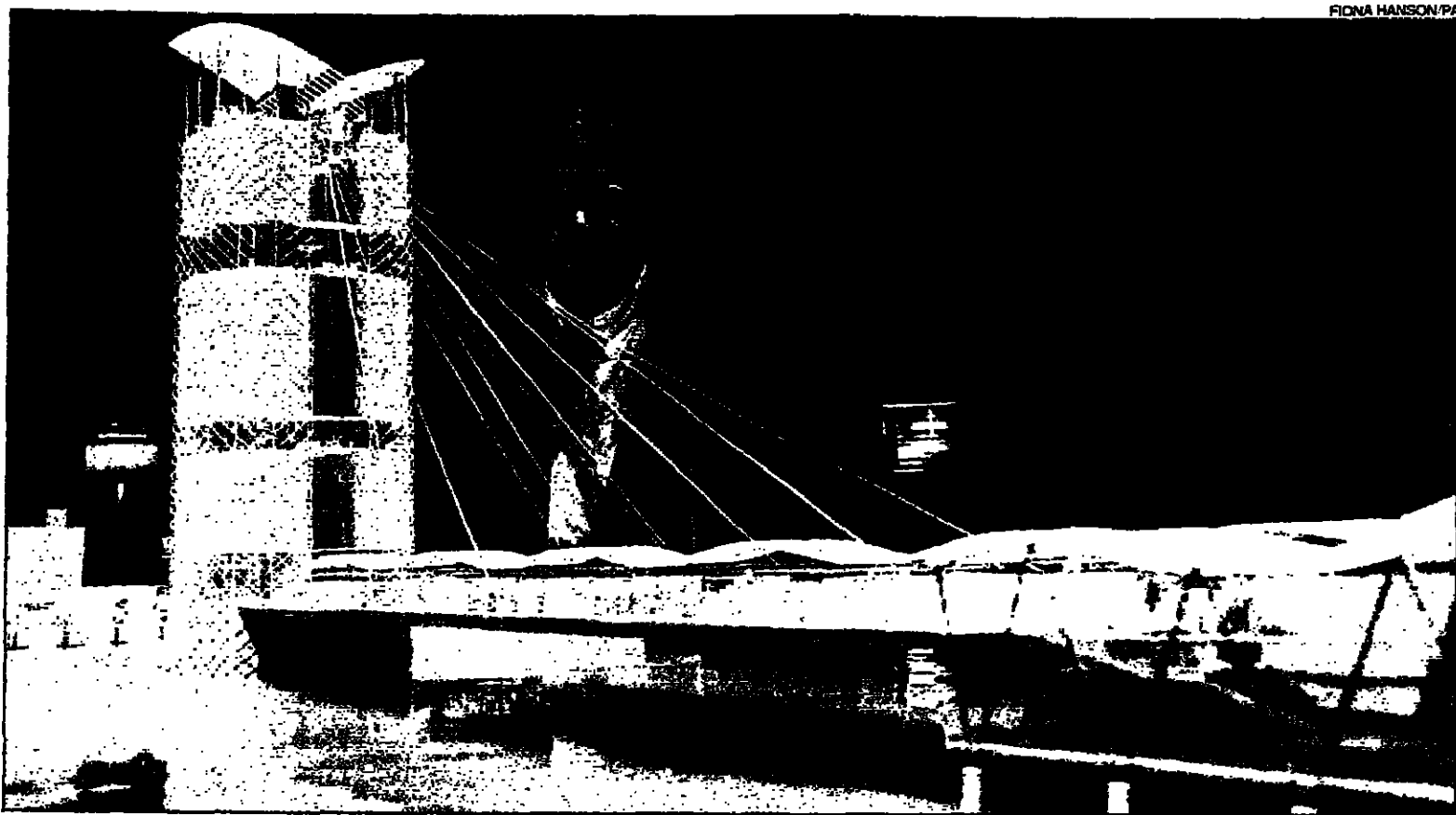
A document produced in July gave no commitment to reducing the present two-year period before workers get full rights against dismissal, although the Labour leadership said this timescale was "too long". But Ian McCartney, a Labour employment spokesman, is discussing with the unions a solution that is acceptable to both sides. One union source said that the leadership had "not said no" to the six-month compromise, although an agreement had yet to be reached.

One of the most potentially damaging debates at the conference, pitting old Labour against new, will be about state pensions. Baroness Castle of Blackburn will be leading a popular demand for state pensions to be raised in line with earnings rather than prices.

Unions were expected to back her call but Harriet Harman, the Shadow Social Security Secretary, has written to them explaining how costly the scheme would be. "We will have to justify our case if we vote against the leadership on this," one union source said.

Sources close to Mr Blair said that he might ignore the pensions vote if it goes against him and press ahead with the policy in the draft manifesto, which drops previous pledges to raise pensions.

Lib Dem conference, page 9



Antoine Grumbach with his proposal for the new London Bridge, between Waterloo and Blackfriars. It includes an hotel and office tower

Public lends hand with bridge building

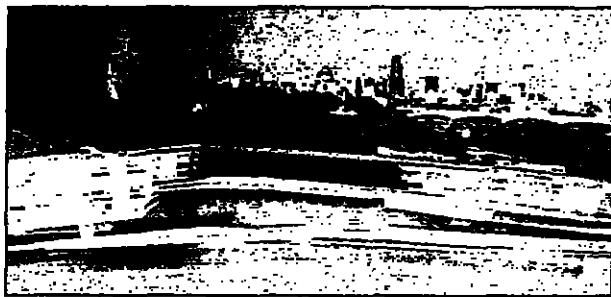
By Nick Nuttall, Environment Correspondent

THE public is being urged to help to choose a new London Bridge after a deadline over two strikingly different designs.

Some of the world's leading architects submitted proposals for the first habitable bridge across the Thames for hundreds of years. It would span the river between Waterloo and Blackfriars.

The winning design was expected to be disclosed yesterday. But judges of the design competition, including John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, and Sir Philip Dowson, president of the Royal Academy, announced that they had shortlisted two plans after being unable to choose a winner.

One proposal, dominated by glass and steel, is from London-based Zaha Hadid. The other, described as a garden bridge, is by the French architect Antoine Grumbach. Mr Gummer said



Zaha Hadid's design allows a view through the bridge

Housing plan that has spanned the centuries

By Marcus Binney

MORE than a hundred inhabited bridges were built in Europe from the Middle Ages to the 18th century. Only ten are still standing.

The longest, at 926ft, was Old London Bridge across the Thames, begun in 1176 and lined with houses to provide revenue for its upkeep. In 1593 it was "adorned with sumptuous buildings inhabited by wealthy citizens and furnished with all manner of trades". A bridge at Newcastle upon Tyne, with four-storey houses on both sides, was destroyed by floods in 1771.

In China, Marco Polo found that roofed bridges lined with marble pillars were often the main gathering places in cities. He described a bridge in Chengtu, the

capital of Szechuen, as covered "with neat apartments and shops".

Covered bridges were often lucrative. A royal decree of 1141 obliged all the money-changers in Paris to use the Pont au Change, while in Florence, in 1593, the Grand Duke decreed that the butchers and grocers on the Ponte Vecchio should be replaced by jewellers. The Rialto Bridge in Venice had three walkways and four rows of shops.

Inhabited bridges went out of fashion in the 17th and 18th centuries when they were considered unhygienic and a preference developed for open views along rivers.

The last inhabited bridge built in Britain is held to be Robert Adams's Pulteney Bridge in Bath of 1770.

Insulted waitresses speak out

TWO waitresses who became the butt of racist jokes by the comedian Bernard Manning called yesterday for a change in the law to prevent similar incidents. Freda Burton, 25, and Sonia Rhule, 32, won their claim against their employers, the Pennine Hotel in Derby, for failing to protect them from racism.

Asked how jokes such as Mr Manning's could be outlawed, Ms Burton said: "When a person telling it can

clearly see a person is being upset by it, this should be stopped." She told BBC Radio 5 Live: "Now I hope they will think twice about hiring someone like Bernard Manning, because at the end of the day it's not him who will get the blame. As we all can see he has got off scot free. It's going to be the employers."

The two waitresses lost their first case at a Nottingham industrial tribunal but that ruling was overturned on

Monday by the employment appeals tribunal, which ruled that they had been subjected to a "horrible experience".

After the comic's act ended, the women had been racially abused by some of the audience, which included solicitors and managing directors. Ms Burton attacked their behaviour, saying: "These are people that we go to every day and there they are laughing at us behind closed doors. Is this what they think of us?"

£3,000 for doctor bullied by women

By Kathryn Knight

A MALE doctor who was bullied by women staff on his hospital ward was awarded £3,000 compensation yesterday for sex discrimination.

Michael Fish, a trainee anaesthetist at Airedale General Hospital in Keighley, west Yorkshire, was one of only a few men working on the ward. He said Janet Baker and Deborah Shaw, consultant anaesthetists, often swore at him and humiliated him in front of junior doctors as he did his rounds, and tried to prevent him getting another job. Dr Fish, 29,

from Kelso, Borders, worked as a senior house officer at the hospital from February 1995 to January 1996 but said there was a conspiracy between female medical staff to keep men doctors off the ward where he was based.

Dr Baker and Dr Shaw, he said, had made it difficult for him to get another job when his two six-month contracts ended, even telephoning potential employers and telling other consultants not to give him a reference. Dr Fish also alleged that Elizabeth Jones, a deputy personnel director, altered holiday figures so it appeared he had taken more time off than

he actually had. The tribunal awarded Dr Fish £3,300 for breach of contract, injury to feeling and loss of earnings caused by sex discrimination.

Speaking after the hearing, Dr Fish said: "I am disappointed it came to this, but I am happy justice has been done. Now, after my victory, hopefully no more junior male doctors will be subjected to discrimination by senior members of staff."

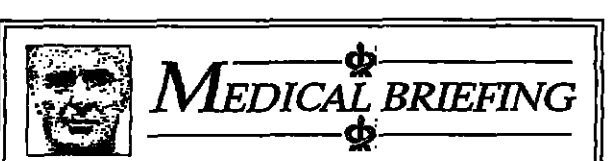
Airedale hospital had claimed that Dr Fish had poor communication skills and denied discrimination. Afterwards it said: "We will review our procedures."

Breath of hope at last for asthmatics

There is good news for asthma sufferers this week in the latest results from research by Birmingham doctors who are co-operating with the Royal College of General Practitioners to study the pattern of the disease in the community.

The Royal College's survey, which is likely to represent accurately the situation throughout Britain, shows that for the first time for many years the number of acute asthma attacks fell by almost 20 per cent in 1995.

This encouraging trend, reported in the newspaper *General Practitioner*, seems to be continuing in 1996 and there have been other reports that suggest that at last the death rate from asthma is beginning to fall. The number of acute attacks of asthma in 1995 was not even greatly affected by the



Dr Thomas Stuttford

two minor outbreaks of flu last year.

There are two possible explanations for a decline in the death rate from asthma, and of acute asthmatic attacks. Either the doctors previously over-diagnosed acute asthma or, what is more likely, the determined campaign to improve the prophylactic treatment of asthma so that severe attacks are avoided is beginning to pay dividends.

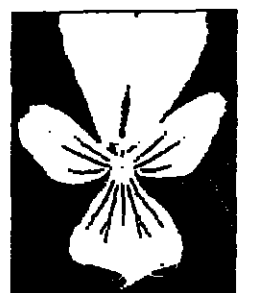
Recent research, in this instance reported in the *British Medical Journal* and the *American Archive of Internal Medicine*, has investigated the relationship between a woman's menstrual history and the likelihood that she will suffer asthma. The research from Philadelphia confirms what many GPs have always suspected, that in women there is a clearly defined link between attacks of acute asthma and their cycle.

Nearly half the women who were seen as emergencies in selected hospitals in the Penn-

sylvania area suffered their attacks either in the premenstrual phase or while menstruating. The time they are least likely to suffer severe asthma is just after they have ovulated, between the nineteenth and twenty-fifth day of their cycle.

Another piece of good news for asthma patients is that a panel of chest physicians who are particularly interested in the disease have analysed the death certificates and the circumstances of the death in asthmatic patients. Although the patients had asthma, the physicians felt that when the cases were considered carefully there were many cases in which asthma frequently did not deserve to be included on the death certificate as a contributory cause of death, whereas few doctors missed including it when it was a relevant factor.

SATURDAY IN THE TIMES



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BRITISH AIRWAYS

GPs and dentists 'turning away most expensive patients'

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

DOCTORS and dentists are striking patients off their lists and refusing to accept new applicants because they are too expensive to treat, the National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux said yesterday.

A patient who required weekly hospital treatment was struck off after the GP said that the hospital bill was too large. In another case a smoker with chest pains was told to find another GP.

In its annual report, published today, the association says it has received an increasing number of complaints from people who could not find a doctor or dentist to accept them. "We've had a fair number of cases reported from bureaux of doctors pruning their lists. In one case a GP removed dozens of patients," a spokeswoman said.

"Although they don't need to give an explanation when they remove someone, it looks suspiciously as if it is for financial

reasons when it ties in with the patient needing more expensive care or developing a more acute situation. If it were simply a matter of workload it is difficult to see why they would remove people rather than closing their lists to new patients."

More than half the population is cared for by fundholding GPs, introduced under the NHS reforms in 1991, who have their own budget for hospital care of patients. Health economists predicted that the scheme would lead to "cream skimming" with GPs favouring the healthiest patients in order to keep their costs down. Non-fundholders have no financial incentive to turn away expensive patients because hospital costs are paid by the health authority.

The association said the shortage of NHS dentists was acute in many areas, with complaints highest in south-west England. "It is extremely

difficult for many people to get an NHS dentist, especially in rural areas. It seems to be commonplace that dentists are not taking new NHS patients," the spokeswoman said.

The British Medical Association said a survey of 1,200 GPs in Scotland had found four who admitted striking off patients whose drugs were too costly. Brian Goss, a GP negotiator, said: "The number ought to be zero. Doctors are there to be the patient's advocate and it is for the Government and health authorities to provide the necessary funds."

The British Dental Association said: "We are calling on the Government to increase funding for NHS dentistry as a matter of urgency."

In total, more than five million people consulted the 77 citizens' advice bureaux in England, Wales and Northern Ireland last year. Most had problems concerning benefits and debt, housing, employment and legal matters.



Oramo: said to be an astonishing conducting talent

Little-known Finn to take over baton from Rattle

By DALYA ALBERGE
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

A FINNISH conductor who is virtually unknown in Britain is to succeed Sir Simon Rattle as principal conductor and artistic adviser of the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra.

Sakari Oramo, 31, who began his career as a violinist and who has been a professional conductor for only four years, takes over in September 1998 when Sir Simon's contract expires. Sir Simon, who announced his resignation in February, will work as a guest conductor.

Mr Oramo joins an orchestra whose past masters have included Sir Adrian Boult. His appointment came as a complete surprise to the music world.

Insiders suggested that Sir Simon was regarded as such a hard act to follow that other conductors had been wary of taking on the post. Some had expedited the appointment to go to Daniel Harding, a young conductor whose talent has been noted by Sir Simon.

However, those who have seen Mr Oramo in action sing his praises. When he conducted the Scottish Chamber Or-



Rattle: to step down from his post in two years

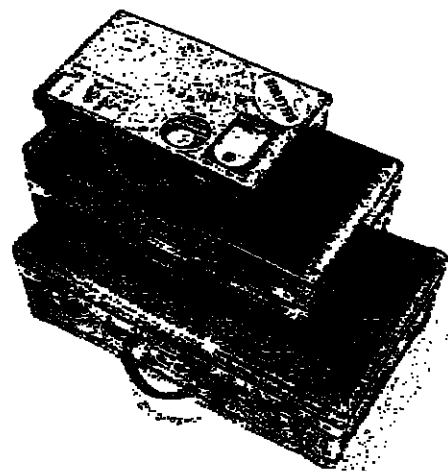
chestra earlier this year, one critic described him as "yet another astonishing Finnish conducting talent".

Edward Smith, chief executive of the CBSO, said: "Daniel Harding is not even 21 yet and we are continuing to work with him. Sakari was the ideal candidate. He made his first visit to us in May 1995, which made such a big impression that we got him back in July this year."

"It confirmed to the orchestra and management, that he was the finest person we could possibly go for. It was unanimous. He has an extraordinary sense of communication, both to the musicians playing

and to the audience." Mr Oramo lives in Bremen, Germany, where his wife, the soprano Anu Komsi, is contracted to the Bremen Opera. He studied violin at the Sibelius Academy, Helsinki, making his professional debut with the Radio Symphony Orchestra in January 1993, when the conductor fell ill. Soon appointed co-conductor of the orchestra, he went on to her Scandinavian tour. He will have a one-year contract as conductor and artistic adviser of the CBSO.

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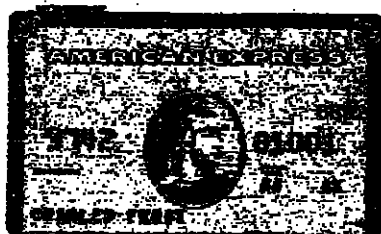


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Student cuts £80,000 off firm's costs

By PAUL WILKINSON

A STUDENT on work experience with an engineering firm saved the company £80,000 a year by spotting a way of improving efficiency.

Janice Vickers cut 79p off the assembly line costs of each of 100,000 nine-speed gearboxes made in the factory each year. The suggestion also won Miss Vickers, 20, who is on a BSc course in mechanical engineering at Birmingham University, a national award for best manufacturing project and the regional award for the most enterprising student in a scheme run by Shell.

She came up with her idea while spending eight weeks with Eaton, the gearbox manufacturers, in Newton Aycliffe, Co Durham, working on a project to make production more efficient.

Miss Vickers, from Darlington, Co Durham, said: "I'm glad my suggestion could help Eaton to save money and I really enjoyed my time there. It was great to win a prize as well."

Steve Rose, Eaton's managing director, said: "Janice's project will save us a considerable amount of money and we are delighted with her. It involved looking at a sub-assembly line. As a result we have made a £32,000 investment to save £80,000 every 12 months."

Nursing faces 'age timebomb'

AN "age time bomb" will cause a shortage of nurses by the turn of the century, the Royal College of Nursing claimed yesterday. One in five nurses is aged over 50 and more than a quarter will be eligible for retirement by 2000, the college said.

A survey, conducted annually for the RCN by the Institute of Employment Studies, says recruitment of student nurses has fallen by 39 per cent since 1987/88. Increases in nurse training places announced in June will not boost numbers until the next century.

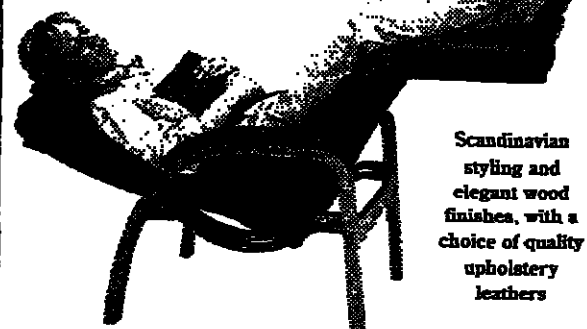
Christine Hancock, RCN general secretary, said: "With far too few students and steadily ageing workforce, we are running out of time to do with the problem. This evidence shows that the shortage of registered nurses will reach crisis point by the year 2000. The Government must act nationally to deal with the approaching crisis."

The survey forms part of the college's evidence to the pay review body which is calling for a national pay rise to bring nurses into line with comparable groups.

The Health Department dismissed the warnings. A spokeswoman said: "The pay review body considered all the evidence and concluded there was no widespread shortage of nursing staff."

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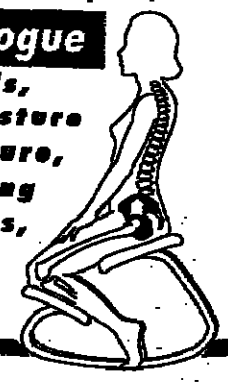
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Ashdown offers to put a backbone into 'timid' Labour

BY PHILIP WEBSTER
POLITICAL EDITOR

PADDY ASHDOWN called on Britain yesterday to elect a substantial force of Liberal Democrat MPs to the next Parliament, enabling the party to put the backbone into a Labour government with radical policies on welfare, education and crime.

Mr Ashdown said the Liberal Democrats would help the British people to "find the hero inside themselves" and turn the country into a "more prosperous nation with a more generous heart". He claimed that his party could prompt a Renaissance in Britain and help to turn it into the world's "number one learning society".

In his speech to the party conference, he presented the Liberal Democrats as the conscience of "timid" Labour, urging his activists to seize the chance to exercise power at the national level by wielding influence on the next government. He portrayed himself as the strongest leader in Britain, laying claim to the mantle of patriotism, quoting Churchill favourably and suggesting that the country had not had a tough leader since his days.

Although he stopped short of saying it, Mr Ashdown expects there to be a Blair-led government that will need co-operation and support from the Liberal Democrats if it is to fulfil Mr Blair's boast of changing Britain. He therefore used his speech to set out the distinctive values and policies of his party, inviting the country to vote for it on its

BRIGHTON

1996

LEADER'S SPEECH

merits and to give it a victory for principle and persistence after years of commitment and endeavour.

His message, repeated several times, was that with a strong Liberal Democrat representation in the next Parliament, Britain would face up to the challenges confronting it. Without such a strong force, the challenges would still be ducked.

Although Mr Ashdown reserved his fiercest words for the Tories, calling them the party of debt and devaluation, attacking their "false patriotism" and accusing them of starting the election in the gutter and using fear as their only weapon, he reflected the doubts in his party about Labour. The one antidote to fear was hope, but Labour had chosen timidity. Far from suggesting that he would need to control Labour excesses, Mr Ashdown saw his role as spurring it on to greater radicalism.

"My fear is this: that we shall see an election and maybe a change of govern-

ment — but we shall not see a change of direction." Ensuring that that did not happen was "the first crucial role of this party". Leadership, he said, was about bringing out the best in others.

He committed his party to the following policies, implying that they would be his goals from co-operation with Labour:

□ An extra £2 billion a year spending on education to reverse the Tory cuts, paid for if necessary by an extra penny on income tax.

□ A comprehensive review of the welfare system, with the Liberal Democrats trying to forge a new consensus between the parties for reform.

□ Raising the top rate of tax to 50 per cent for earnings over £100,000, freeing 750,000 people from tax altogether.

□ Employing 3,000 more police and forming a crime-fighting plan for every community, bringing schools and businesses, parents and police, probation services and youth workers together.

□ A war on bureaucracy in the health service and the restoration of free eye and dental check-ups.

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□ A fairer voting system, Bill of Rights, Freedom of Information Act, a Scottish parliament and Welsh assembly.

All these changes, Mr Ashdown said, could be achieved only if the Liberal Democrats were strong in the next Parliament.

Enlarging on his leadership



Paddy Ashdown and his wife Jane after his speech to the conference yesterday

theme, he said the country that Churchill led was not miraculously converted from indifference to valour; the qualities were already there. The same was true today: "There is purpose, determination, talent, principle and an impatience to get things done hidden, untapped in our country." He added: "This country is not the mean, selfish, uncompassionate nation the Tories have tried to make us these last 17 years."

power, they would scaremonger about the break-up of the United Kingdom, bluster about the threat of Europe, wrap themselves shamelessly in the flag and claim for themselves a monopoly of patriotism.

"But theirs is a false patriotism," he said. A true patriot would not have applauded Michael Portillo's "grubby attempt to conscript our armed forces into a Tory Party conference."

ground, he declared: "I count myself to be a patriot. I have served this country as a soldier. I have represented it abroad as a diplomat. I love it and I am proud of it. But the battles we must fight for our country in the next century are different to the battles we have fought in this one — and, as a country, we have just got to stop wallowing in the past, in past glories, past conflicts and past illusions."

Highlighting his own back-

Success will be measured in next year's clout

RIDDELL
ON POLITICS

When Paddy Ashdown said yesterday that he wanted to help people to "find the hero inside themselves", he might have had Kenneth Clarke in mind. After all, the increasingly outspoken Mr Clarke is dominating the conference session, and the calculations of other politicians. The Tories' battles over Europe — for once a military metaphor is appropriate — could have a crucial bearing on the political realignment that Mr Ashdown, and Tony Blair, are seeking.

Liberal Democrats are always predicting the splintering of the political system. For once, this may not be so far-fetched. Mr Blair talks of going beyond a tribal view to create a centre-left progressive alliance. Mr Ashdown has said he has more in common with Mr Clarke than the Chancellor has with Michael Portillo, and with Mr Blair than the Labour leader has with Dennis Skinner. The Tory cracks are visible. The party hierarchy may be playing down criticism of Mr Clarke, but his remarks clearly breached collective responsibility.

The attempt by the sceptics and their press allies to force Mr Clarke out of office will probably fail, however. Last night's unconvincing Downing Street statement was intended to defuse the crisis. But as Mr Ashdown warned, the stakes are high. Mr Clarke's resignation, possibly accompanied by other ministers, could be a terminal blow to the credibility of the Government. The resulting turmoil in financial markets might produce just the sharp rise in interest rates which Mr Clarke is trying to avoid. The sceptics are deluding themselves if they think that getting rid of him will improve the Tories' election chances. Whatever happens in the short term, the pro-European faction, some of Mr Clarke's allies are already looking beyond the election to the possibility of cross-party co-operation.

Mr Ashdown's hopes for the Liberal Democrats depend on such fluidity in the centre of politics. There will be no deals or pacts. All options

will be left open. His conference speech yesterday, his best in his eight years as leader, was intended to put his party in a position to work with a Blair government. This involves a twin-track approach of establishing a distinctive identity for the party to attract voters while not creating any obstacles to co-operation. His theme was that the more Liberal Democrat MPs there are after the election, the more chance there will be of a real change of direction on education, the environment and constitutional reform. He depicted the Liberal Democrats as bold and candid while Labour is cautious and evasive. Of course, it is always easier for a party which is not aspiring to form a government to take such a line — and self-righteous claims that the party "will ensure that great issues are faced, not fudged" can become tedious after a few days. But his speech worked in boosting the spirits of Liberal activists and in conveying an impression of self-confidence and harmony.

Since 1988, Mr Ashdown has skillfully rebuilt his party from the shambles of the merger and gradually steered it towards a realistic political strategy. Being a think-tank is not enough. He wants a share of power and policymaking, to change Britain. "Putting that first and taking risks to achieve it is how we have won our great success in local government. And in the short time ahead we will have to show the single-mindedness and courage to do that at national level, too." In other words, don't be too pure and party chauvinist. For Mr Ashdown, success will be whether, at next year's conference, he can claim an influence over central government, if not a formal share of power. Such hopes have often been disappointed in the past, but the renewed Tory infighting suggests that old party demarcation lines may be breaking down.

PETER RIDDELL

Activists back tighter controls on handguns

BY ALICE THOMSON

THE Liberal Democrats called for tough new gun controls yesterday and sought to shake off their image as the party that is soft on crime.

The party conference voted in favour of restricting handguns, other than those for professional use, to single-shot weapons for target shooting. Such guns would also have to be kept at a registered club. The representatives also called for stalking to be made a criminal offence, all mail-order sales of

firearms to be banned, and air weapons to be licensed.

However, the debates were acrimonious with many older Liberal Democrats keen to preserve civil liberties. The conference was split over a proposed ban on all handguns except those for professional use. The old Liberals blocked the proposal by only nine votes. In a rare recorded vote, 357 representatives voted for a ban, but 366 voted for the single-shot restriction.

Paul Weller, from Chesham and Amersham, said that proposals went

against civil liberties. To shouts of shame, he said of the Dublin school shooting: "I don't believe... that we should be in effect grave-robbing those children for votes. That is the sort of politics of Michael Howard and Jack Straw." He added: "I don't like the gun lobby and find them offensive. But, having said that, I am also a Liberal and there is liberty involved here."

Chris White, parliamentary candidate for Hitchin and Harpenden, condemned the speech as shameful. "Playing with guns is not something

that is safe for the user or the rest of society," he said.

Chris Maines, the parliamentary candidate for Orpington, Kent, told how he had tried to bring a mail-order replica machinegun into the conference centre. He had intended to produce the gun, bought for £135 through a magazine advertisement, to illustrate how easily they could be obtained. Mr Maines, a senior steward at the conference, consulted police about his planned stunt and they insisted that he hand in the gun.



Maines: gun stunt ruled out by police

Nicholson wins applause

EMMA NICHOLSON, addressing her first conference after defecting from the Tories, drew rapturous applause with an assault on her former colleagues (Arthur Leathley writes).

The MP for Devon West and Torridge said that John Major had been "beached by his own timidity" as the "rabid anti-European tenden-

cy" dominated a Tory party in which senior ministers had become semi-detached.

She also said: "If evidence were ever needed of the state of decay into which the Tory party has sunk, the long march of the Right provides plenty of it. The Tories lost the capacity to listen to the electorate at all years ago and the electorate knows it."

Labour's home rule 'farce' attacked

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY

LABOUR'S recent changes on plans for a Scottish parliament are making a farce of its devolution policy, the conference was told.

Jim Wallace, the leader of the Scottish Liberal Democrats, condemned Labour's decision to hold a referendum on devolution despite being advised against this by members of both parties in the Scottish Convention.

"In a few weeks of political mismanagement, Labour brought joy to the opponents of home rule, lost a summer's opportunity of positive campaigning and showed that, in the midst of all the talk of new Labour and the new pluralism, the quick-fix of old Labour was alive and well and able to find houseroom in Islington. Summer has rolled on and the shambles of their referendum play has at times degenerated into farce."

He said that the Liberal Democrats were committed to reinvigorating democracy by decentralising power throughout the UK.

Unanimous backing for monarchy reforms

REFORMS that would limit the power of the monarchy were backed by the conference yesterday.

The Liberal Democrats unanimously approved plans to remove the Queen's right to choose the Prime Minister in the event of a hung Parliament, to approve treaties without Parliament's agreement and to set the date of an election.

Although the proposed reforms are largely symbolic, party leaders see them as an important step in bringing fundamental change to some of Britain's oldest institutions. They also say that the unanimous approval will help to increase the momentum of talks on constitutional change being held with Labour.

Other changes passed include plans to reform Parliament and the electoral system. The party wants the House of Lords to be cut from 1,200 peers to 300, and the Commons cut from 651 MPs to about 450. MPs would be elected by proportional representation for a fixed period of four years.

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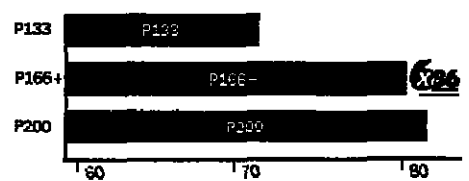
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Fear and pointless wars tear Pakistan apart

AS IT approaches its fiftieth anniversary, Pakistan is torn by crises of morality, religion, politics and war. It is bleeding to death on the streets of Karachi, the financial capital. It pursues a doomed battle in Kashmir. It persists with the world's stupidest war at nearly 20,000ft on the Siachen glacier in the Himalayas.

Even its Islamic identity, one of two principal unifying forces in a multilingual, multi-cultural country, is degraded by conflict between Sunnis and Shias. Murdering each other at prayer is a measure of how menacing the religious divide is, destroying any sense of nationhood and purpose. Benazir Bhutto, the Prime Minister, admitted in so many words that religious killings were threatening the country's survival.

The other unifying force is a hatred of India. But two generations after partition there is no grassroots hatred: there is only a false fear. India has neither territorial designs nor aggressive intent. As a matter of policy it uses restrained language towards Pakistan, realising that harsh

For most Pakistanis, India is no longer a 'bogey man', Christopher Thomas writes. The nation's own decay is the shadow over its imminent 50th birthday

rhetoric plays into Islamabad's hands. The Indian bogey is losing the power to frighten, and thus to unite.

India has offered to pull back from Siachen: Pakistan snubbed it. It has offered to open cross-border trade: Pakistan has not replied. India is ready for bilateral talks on Kashmir: Pakistan declined. The Pakistani establishment is determined to keep relations hostile; without it the point of Pakistan would come into question.

The lie that Kashmiri Muslims, with their unique Sufi traditions, want to join Pakistan from a sense of Islamic brotherhood has justified 49 years of cross-border bloodshed that have achieved nothing — least of all the gratitude of Kashmiris, who have died in their thousands in the naïve belief that Pakistan would

extricate them from India. Kashmiris are sick of being Pakistani pawns: hating India does not translate into fondness for Pakistan, despite Pakistani propaganda. This truth is filtering back to grassroots Pakistanis.

America is secretly pushing Pakistan to open direct talks with India on Kashmir. Delhi has privately agreed, so long as the talks are bilateral with no intermediaries. Frank Wisner, the US Ambassador to India, told army officers in Rawalpindi that Pakistan should accept certain "realities" — in other words, there is no prospect of India abandoning the Kashmir Valley. Delhi is willing to declare the boundary in Kashmir an international border.

Pakistan's curse is that India assumed all its history in 1947. The young country has

no past: it began life without institutions, without a democratic structure, without any sense of itself beyond separatism from India. The military has ultimately held it together, and the army is still the most powerful force for stability — and the only one not disintegrating. The courts are corrupt, the police venal, the politicians rotten. That is why Pakistan has been under military rule half its life.

There is a repugnance over dictatorship among the new generation of generals, and they are doing everything to allow democracy its head. But there may be a limit to how much Pakistan can take of its politicians. An increasingly assertive President Leghari, who took office in 1993 after Benazir Bhutto returned to power, has dusted off a rarely used provision enabling him to order a parliamentary investigation into corruption. His intervention reflects his, and the military's, alarm at the accelerating decay of democracy.

Nigella Lawson, page 15
Leading article, page 17



Murtaza Bhutto's daughter Fatima, 14, right, and his widow, Ghuwara, mourn for him at their home in Larkana, Pakistan. Bhutto, the estranged brother of Benazir Bhutto, the Prime Minister, was killed with six other men during a gunfight

Alert over Punjab riots

between his bodyguards and police last week (Zahad Hussain writes). Security forces across the country have been put on alert to prevent sectarian

clashes between Shia and Sunni Muslims from spreading. More than 100 religious extremists were arrested yesterday. On Monday, 23 worshippers were

killed and 50 others wounded in an attack on a Sunni mosque in Multan. The killing sparked off widespread violence in the city and other towns in the Punjab, as angry crowds attacked the Shia religious buildings.

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Zaire and Rwanda in border clashes

FROM SAM KILLEY
IN NAIROBI

RELIEF agencies yesterday evacuated staff from the border between Zaire and Rwanda after artillery and machinegun exchanges between the two countries' forces raised fears that war could break out in the region.

The Rwandan Government said yesterday that its troops had engaged the Zairean Army in eight hours of heavy gunfire across the border for the second night in a row on Monday. Later an independent radio station said that both sides had agreed to a ceasefire.

Emmanuel Ndayiro, adviser to Major-General Paul Kagame, the Rwandan Vice-President and Defence Minister, accused the Zaireans of opening fire first with anti-aircraft guns and rifles.

"We are checking for casualties. The truth is that they fired first. We opened fire in response," he said.

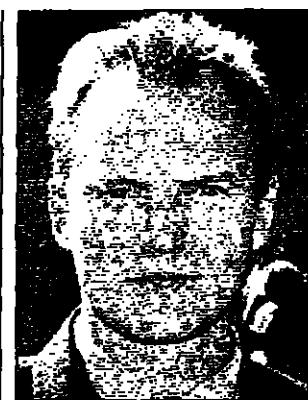
Three foreign workers with the Red Cross were evacuated yesterday while plans were under way to get about 40 Germans, as well as non-essential staff with the United Nations, out of the area.

Other foreigners contacted in Bukavu, the Zairean border town, said that the hills around had been heavily bombarded from the Rwandan side while they had also seen explosions inside Rwanda, but there were no authoritative reports of casualties.

The conflict has its roots in the 1994 genocide in Rwanda. Hutu extremists fled to Zaire as Tutsi rebels advanced and since then have been using the country as a base from which to attack Rwanda's Tutsi-dominated regime.

Genocide trial: Human rights groups have asked the UN to include rape among the charges against Rwandans accused of organising the country's 1994 genocide, after investigating numerous cases of systematic sexual abuse that have left 5,000 "children of hate".

Jean-Paul Akayesu, a Mayor in Taba commune in central Rwanda, is due to stand trial at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda this week. He is accused of crimes against humanity and genocide, but the Washington-based Human Rights Watch-Africa and other organisations have alleged that he helped to organise the rape of Tutsi women by Hutu men.



Sting: his music must pass "purity test"

Sting to give a concert in Vietnam

FROM KEVIN BUBEL
IN HANOI

STING is to give a concert in Vietnam next month, but he will not be singing *Russians*.

Under regulations introduced earlier this year by the Communist Government to contain what it calls "social evils", or foreign cultural influences that it deems harmful, all musicians wishing to perform anywhere in Vietnam require a permit saying that their lyrics have passed a "purity test". Words to Sting's songs, in English with a Vietnamese translation, were submitted to the Ministry of Culture and Information for scrutiny months ago.

"In this country the Government is not familiar with international music and is concerned how their people might be influenced, so they have been slow in wanting it to come in," said Larry Hurwitz, Sting's manager, in Ho Chi Minh City.

Misunderstanding of the use of modern phrases, even among the most savvy English speakers in Vietnam, can lead to confusion and offence. "I think *Russians* [in which Sting asks if they love their children] was written with heartfelt intent for all peoples, don't you?" Mr Hurwitz said.

To save jeopardising the performance, Mr Hurwitz said the song was not submitted on the playlist to Vietnamese officials. Sting's will be the first major rock production in Vietnam since the war ended 21 years ago.

Top ticket prices for the 4,000-seat concert in Ho Chi Minh City on October 16 is about £30. But there will be no problem selling them.

They will be bought by a fast-rising new breed of wealthy young people who have shrugged off the dark days of collectivism.

British surgeon denies manslaughter of three

FROM REUTER IN WELLINGTON

A BRITISH heart surgeon pleaded not guilty in a Wellington court to three charges of manslaughter when his trial opened yesterday.

Keith Ramstead, 44, is charged with causing the deaths of three patients he operated on when working in a Christchurch hospital in 1991 and 1992, and with falsifying their death certificates. The Liverpool doctor returned to New Zealand after a 2½-year extradition battle.

The charges allege that Mr

Ramstead caused the deaths of an elderly woman and two men by failing to use reasonable knowledge, skill and care in surgical treatment. Dressed in a dark suit and looking pale, the surgeon pleaded not guilty to all charges.

The trial was transferred from Christchurch to Wellington at Mr Ramstead's request.

The deaths occurred in December 1991, and June and August 1992, on the operating table during surgery for cancer.

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Draft by Mrs Clinton 'misled bank officials'

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

AS A LAWYER in Arkansas, Hillary Clinton drafted a document that was used to deceive bank inspectors and divert a payment of \$300,000 (£193,000) to one of her partner's relations, according to a federal report made public yesterday.

The account is the latest twist in the tortuous money trail involving the failed Madison Guaranty Savings and Loan institution in Little Rock in the 1980s, as well as property dealings that allegedly benefited insiders, ultimately at taxpayers' expense.

The report makes no direct allegations of criminal wrongdoing against Mrs Clinton and does not reach a conclusion about what she knew. She has said under oath that she cannot recall her involvement in the episode. Nor does the report recommend a course of action, although the dealings are being investigated by Kenneth Starr, the Whitewater special prosecutor.

In a television interview, President Clinton said he believes that Mr Starr, a Republican, is out to "get" him and Mrs Clinton. "Isn't it obvious?" he asked. Voicing extraordinary criticism of the

prosecutor, the President said "there is a lot of evidence" to support Susan McDougal's claim that Mr Starr is trying to force her to provide damaging evidence against the Clintons, even if false. Mrs McDougal is in prison for contempt of court for refusing to co-operate with Mr Starr. She and her former husband, James, former owners of Madison and the Clintons' partners in the Whitewater land deal, were convicted of fraud.

Yesterday's report was prepared at the urging of Republicans on the Senate Whitewater



Starr: fiercely criticised by President Clinton

committee who hoped to embarrass Mrs Clinton and the President in the weeks before the election. However, the disclosures seem unlikely to affect Mr Clinton's re-election chances, given his big lead over Bob Dole in the polls and the fact that voters are victims of "Whitewater burnout". The story is too complex for readers and viewers to follow and there have been too many false denouncements before.

The report was prepared by the Inspector-General at the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, a government agency that insures bank deposits and enforces banking laws. The findings were based in part on Mrs Clinton's records at her law firm, which had been missing until found in the White House private quarters this year.

The documents refer to her legal work for Madison with Webster Hubbell, a law partner who came in Washington with the Clintons as an Assistant Attorney-General but who is now in prison for fraud. The account alleges that Madison, too low on funds to invest directly in a large land project, arranged instead for Seth Ward, Mr Hubbell's father-in-

law, to be a "straw buyer", a purchaser in name only, for which he was a paid commission of \$300,000.

The report said: "Madison used a document drafted by Mrs Clinton to deceive federal bank examiners as to the true nature of the payments to Ward." The document was an option by Madison to purchase a parcel of land from Mr Ward for \$400,000, more than double its appraisal value. The report said it made Madison's payments to Mr Ward look like a loan.

The method of paying commission evaded regulations designed to protect the soundness of Madison, the report said. It also noted that in 1988, before a legal action by Mr Ward against Madison, Mrs Clinton ordered the destruction of all her files related to the transaction, including one labelled "Ward option".

David Kendall, Mrs Clinton's lawyer, said that the report "does not allege that Mrs Clinton did anything wrong or had any knowledge of any illegal intention with respect to the option. If there was such an intention, in the two hours of work she did on it over ten years ago."

Nuclear powers sign pact to outlaw test explosions

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

THE world's five declared nuclear powers and dozens of other nations yesterday signed an historic treaty that will effectively end the Cold War era of nuclear testing.

Britain joined the United States, Russia, China and France in signing the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty outlawing all explosive nuclear tests after half a century in which more than 2,000 have been performed.

After putting his signature to the treaty, President Clinton told the United Nations General Assembly that the treaty was the "longest-sought, hardest-fought prize in arms control history".

"The signatures of the world's declared nuclear powers along with those of the vast majority of its nations will immediately create an international norm against nuclear testing — even before the treaty formally enters into force," he said.

In order to come into effect, the treaty requires the signature of all 44 nations with a nuclear power industry. Dozens signed yesterday, but it may still never come into formal legal force because of the opposition of India, one of

three so-called "threshold states" thought to have nuclear weapons capability.

Insisting that it would preserve its own "nuclear option" until the declared nuclear powers had disarmed, India has vowed not to sign what it described as a flawed treaty. Pakistan, also a "threshold state", reacted by saying that it

‘This is the longest-sought, hardest-fought prize in the history of arms control’

would not sign either until India agreed to do so.

The comprehensive test ban is the culmination of negotiations which began with the conclusion of the Limited Test Ban Treaty in 1963, banning nuclear test explosions in the atmosphere, underwater or in outer space. Tests continued underground but restrictions were placed on their size in

1974 by the Threshold Test Ban Treaty.

Negotiations on the comprehensive ban began in Geneva at the UN Conference on Disarmament in 1994, although both France and China continued testing. When India blocked the necessary consensus in the Geneva talks, Australia led a successful diplomatic campaign to open the treaty for signature anyway.

Legal argument continues over whether countries which sign and ratify the treaty are bound by its terms under international law even before it comes into full legal effect with 44 signatories. British officials yesterday avoided answering whether Britain now considered itself barred from further test explosions.

Arms control advocates cautioned that hydro-dynamic, sub-critical and other nuclear tests could continue and said the nuclear powers had developed means to test by computer simulation.

In his address, President Clinton called for ratification of the Chemical Weapons Convention by the Republican-controlled US Senate and for a global ban on anti-personnel land-mines.

Rifkind in asylum ban plea

New York: Britain called yesterday for a United Nations declaration barring political asylum for terrorists (James Bone writes).

Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, told the General Assembly that terrorists should not be able to benefit from the provisions of the 1951 UN Convention on Refugees to secure political asylum. Britain plans to push for a declaration by the assembly by the end of the year, and can count on support from the European Union and the G7 leading industrialised nations.

British officials say the declaration would prevent terrorists from using refugee laws to seek sanctuary in Britain. It might also apply to wanted IRA men who have obtained political asylum in the United States.

"People who do these evil things and who seek asylum under the UN refugee convention do not deserve to benefit from it," Mr Rifkind said.

In his speech, the Foreign Secretary emphasised Britain's commitment to the goal of global free trade by 2020 and said all governments should liberalise their economies and lift trading restrictions.

Restorers 'harming' frescoes by Giotto

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

AN ARRAY of art lovers including Lord Menzies, the violinist, Danny DeVito, the actor, and Sir Ernst Gombrich, the art historian, yesterday predicted that an Italian government restoration programme could damage the Giotto frescoes in Padua.

The group demanded a temporary halt to the work on the early 14th-century frescoes in the Scrovegni Chapel, which depict biblical scenes and are considered to be of immense artistic value.

Six hundred petitions from around the world were delivered to Italian government representatives in New York. The campaign was organised by the Manhattan-based ArtWatch International, which wants to halt the excesses of art restoration.

The Italian Government has provided £1.9 million for work on the frescoes, which Giotto painted in 1305.

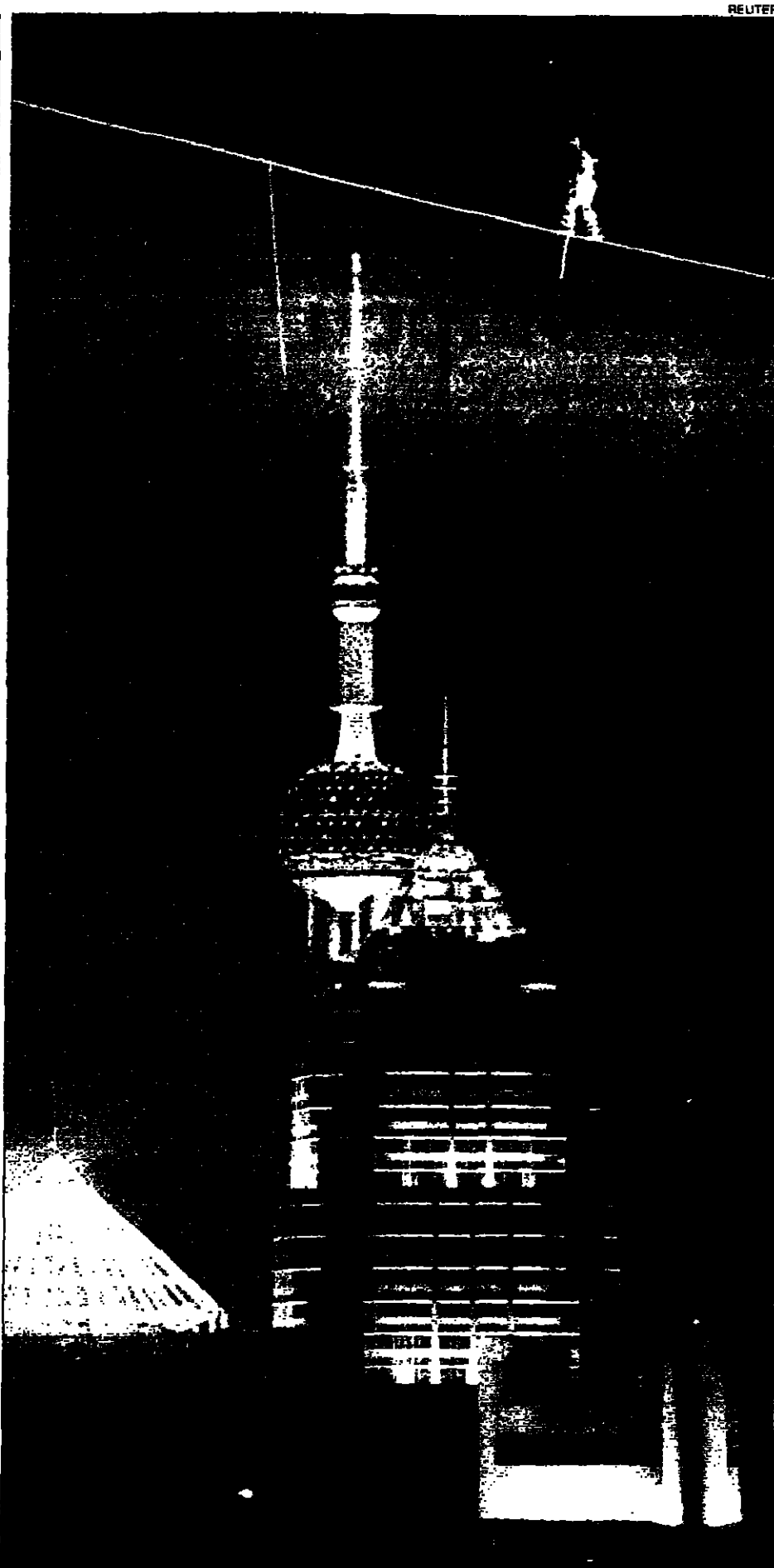
James Beck, of New York's Columbia University and president of ArtWatch, said:

"It is essential for the world to have a say in this work. The art world is in the hands of a few people who think that they are the only ones to have influence over art restoration. It is like leaving matters of pollution to be decided by the oil companies."

Professor Beck found that there was "knee-deep" water in the crypt while on a recent visit to the chapel. The flooding was apparently caused by a rise in water levels after nearby trees were cut down. He claimed that nothing was being done about the water except some rudimentary draining dangerously close to the frescoes.

At the same time, he said, the Italian authorities were planning an elaborate and unsightly humidity control system at the entrance to the chapel. The work, he said, was experimental, and possibly dangerous to the frescoes.

The ArtWatch campaign has backing from a wide range of celebrities and its petition has been signed by academics from numerous international institutions, including the Royal Academy and the Royal Society of Portrait Painters.



A spotlight picks out tightrope walker Jay Cochrane as he edges across the 650ft gulf between two Shanghai skyscrapers, using only a balancing pole. Several thousand people paid to see the Canadian, who took 15 minutes to complete the stunt

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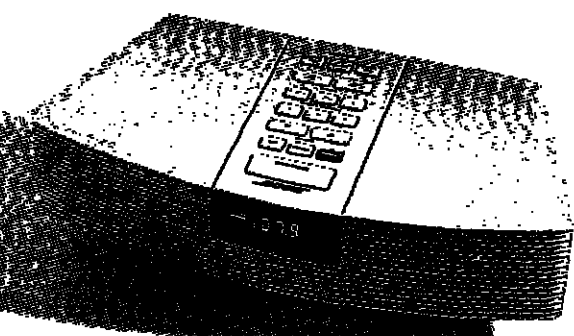
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President Clinton and Dr Boutros Ghali at the UN

President tables a snub to UN leader

BY JAMES BONE

PRESIDENT CLINTON delivered a diplomatic snub yesterday to Boutros Boutros Ghali, the man he is seeking to remove as UN Secretary-General.

Although Mr Clinton exchanged a cordial handshake with the smiling Dr Boutros Ghali on arriving at UN headquarters, he rejected the customary invitation for lunch and tried to have cameras banned from their short tête-à-tête. The President's handlers relented only when a UN spokeswoman threatened to announce publicly why no television pictures of the encounter were available.

Before leaving Washington, the President and his officials had reiterated that Washington would use its

and five-year term, so that all eyes at the UN headquarters were on the two men when they met.

Last year, during the UN's fiftieth anniversary celebrations, Mr Clinton accepted the invitation to lunch and gave a toast praising Dr Boutros Ghali. Then, when America announced its opposition to Dr Boutros Ghali's second term, a UN spokesman dug out the toast from the files and used it against the Clinton Administration's contention that the UN chief was tardy on reform.

In the end, UN television showed Mr Clinton sitting next to Dr Boutros Ghali yesterday, but with little evident appetite for conversation. UN sources said the two dis-

Neglect, vandalism and corruption threaten ancient town with modern-day destruction

Rescue cry goes up as tourist tide swamps Pompeii

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

LEADING British and Italian archaeologists said yesterday that Pompeii, "the symbol of European archaeology", was in an accelerating state of deterioration because of neglect, vandalism and corruption, and outlined an urgent plan to save it.

"Pompeii is dying," said Walter Mazzitti, president of the Archaeological Club of Italy. Pompeii could no longer withstand the "deadly pressure" of 11 million tourists a year crowding through its ancient streets, touching crumbling stone walls, frescoes and mosaics, and vandalising treasures.

Andrew Wallace-Hadrill, director of the British School in Rome and a key figure in the campaign to save Pompeii, said the problems were partly due to "the culture of corruption" in southern Italy. The international restoration drive is being co-ordinated by Piero

Guzzo, the new Superintendent at Pompeii, whose predecessor, Baldassare Conticello, is awaiting trial for alleged corruption after scandals over missing funds.

"We are waiting to see whether the new left-wing Government of Professor Romano Prodi will be able to break the culture of corruption," Professor Wallace-Hadrill said.

"Corruption makes it difficult to run a multimillion-dollar project." A new plan to restore key sections of Pompeii in a more rational way is being drawn up by a committee from the British School in Rome, Reading University and the Pompeii Superintendent's Office.

Only some mosaics are protected behind perspex and the famous Cave Canem (Beware of the Dog) mosaic at the House of the Tragic Poet has been fenced off.

Professor Wallace-Hadrill

said some damage was done by schoolchildren. "Fifty or 60 coachloads arrive at a time and empty out on to the site. The children rush around tearing the site to pieces," he said. "This is one of the plagues of Italy - instead of learning how to respect their patrimony, children are left to romp all over it like a playground."

Professor Mazzitti said people "trample on the mosaics and deface the plaster". He declared: "Pompeii cannot much longer withstand 30,000 visitors a day storming en masse through the site."

A former Greek colony, Pompeii became a wealthy Roman trading town in 200 BC, famous for its fish sauce as well as its patrician villas. It was destroyed in AD 79 when Mount Vesuvius erupted, covering it in hot ash and pumice. Two thousand people died of asphyxiation. Pompeii lay



A young tourist in the ruins of Pompeii, which are under "deadly pressure" from 11 million visitors a year. One option is to make part of it like Disneyland

buried for nearly 1,700 years, with only the tops of houses and columns visible, until the 18th century, when archaeologists began to uncover near-perfect streets, houses and preserved bodies.

Entrance tickets bring in £7 million a year, but barely half is ploughed back for restoration and maintenance. Walter Veltroni, the young ex-Communist Deputy Prime Minister,

who also holds the cultural affairs portfolio, has vowed to release more funds, provided they are properly targeted.

Professor Mazzitti said Pompeii was so neglected it had become open to stray dogs, vandals and "night predators such as prostitutes". There was a lamentable lack of planning in the government-funded restoration programme. "One day one

building is restored, then another. There is no logic." He called on the Government to invest at least £1 billion instead of the £200 million earmarked for Pompeii so far.

Professor Wallace-Hadrill said that eight blocks of ancient houses had been "thoroughly and expensively restored" after the 1980 earthquake in the area, with new roofs and lintels made from

the same materials that the Romans had used. But ten times as much remained to be restored.

He said the solution might be to put selected exhibits on show and rebury the rest.

"We need restoration which allows the public to get a vivid impression of what the remains were originally like. But this covers the evidence in modern masonry. So we also need to 'wrap up' or rebury whole sections in *lapilli* - that is, volcanic material - to preserve it for future generations."

Professor Wallace-Hadrill suggested that to meet the demands of the tens of thousands who sweep through Pompeii every day - "at times, more people than actually inhabited the place" - the authorities might construct an archaeological Disneyland along the lines of colonial Williamsburg in America.

"Instead of taking the most beautiful houses and encouraging tourists to pass through them, as at present, we could select the most neglected part, ruined by two centuries of exposure and neglect, and reconstruct a 'slice of Roman life' where people dressed in togas served drinks behind the bars, told people about the life of a slave, and so on," Professor Wallace-Hadrill said.

"That might deflect tourists from passing through and gradually destroying the most precious parts of the site."

He said the success of Signor Guzzo's call for international efforts to save Pompeii would depend on a convincing restoration plan.

There is a lot of Japanese interest in Pompeii which could be harnessed. But nobody wants to put their money into a black hole. They want to be reassured that their money is being spent effectively."

Tunnel to Jerusalem holy site sparks riot

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

HUNDREDS of stone-throwing Palestinians rioted here yesterday as Israel touched a raw nerve in the Arab-Jewish dispute by opening a new entrance to a tunnel beside the Temple Mount, site of Islam's third-holiest shrine.

Last night, the 22-member Arab League warned Israel that the work at the site, also known as Haram al-Sharif, would "stir the feelings of Muslims all over the world" and lead to an "angry popular confrontation". The League said it would be appealing to the United Nations, the European Union and America and Russia, co-sponsors of the peace process, to have the work halted.

The task of completing the tunnel, begun 12 years ago but shelved because of previous violent protests, was achieved under cover of darkness and heavy guard. It was approved by Benjamin Netanyahu, the Prime Minister, and watched by Ehud Olmert, the right-wing Mayor of Jerusalem.

Although only 500 yards in length, the tunnel crosses what has for years been a flashpoint in the battle for control of Jerusalem. When news of the completion spread, Palestinian mobs attacked Israeli patrols and set a lorry on fire off Salah-Din Street, the main commercial thoroughfare.

The work opens a second exit from the Via Dolorosa, the route Jesus is believed to have taken to the Crucifixion, to an existing tunnel beginning at the Wailing Wall, the holiest site for Jews. Arabs allege that it breaches the sanctity of the Temple Mount, which contains the al-Aqsa mosque.

Yasser Arafat, President of the Palestinian Authority, said: "This is a big crime against our religion and holy places. This is an Israeli madness to change the features of Jerusalem."

But Mr Netanyahu was praised by right-wing supporters for undertaking a task avoided by previous prime ministers.

Mr Olmert said the message was simple: "Hey guys, we are not playing games. Not everything that happens here will be subject to negotiations because we are the sovereigns of the city."

Israel claimed that the opening to the existing tunnel would give tourists easier access to archaeological sites beneath the Wailing Wall.

Any digging close to the Temple Mount evokes fury among Palestinians suspicious that Israel is trying to undermine Muslim sites.

New arrest in Belgian scandal

Brussels: A Brussels woman was arrested yesterday on charges of involvement in Belgium's paedophile murder scandal as rival police forces blamed each other for failing to halt the crimes of Marc Dutroux, a confessed kidnapper (Charles Bremner writes).

Marleen De Cockere, 40, who was charged with criminal association and drug trafficking, is a former companion of Jean-Michel Nihoul, a Brussels businessman. He is one of 12 people who have been charged with offences related to the deaths and torture of young girls.

Rushdie fatwa

pledge by Iran

Tehran: Iran pledged for the first time in writing that it would not "send any commandos" to seek out and kill the British author Salman Rushdie, but it insisted that a religious decree or *fatwa* condemning him to death for alleged blasphemy was irrevocable. The commitment came amid hopes that Iran and the European Union were near a settlement of the Rushdie affair, which has strained ties for the past seven years. (AFP)

Graf's father loses bail plea

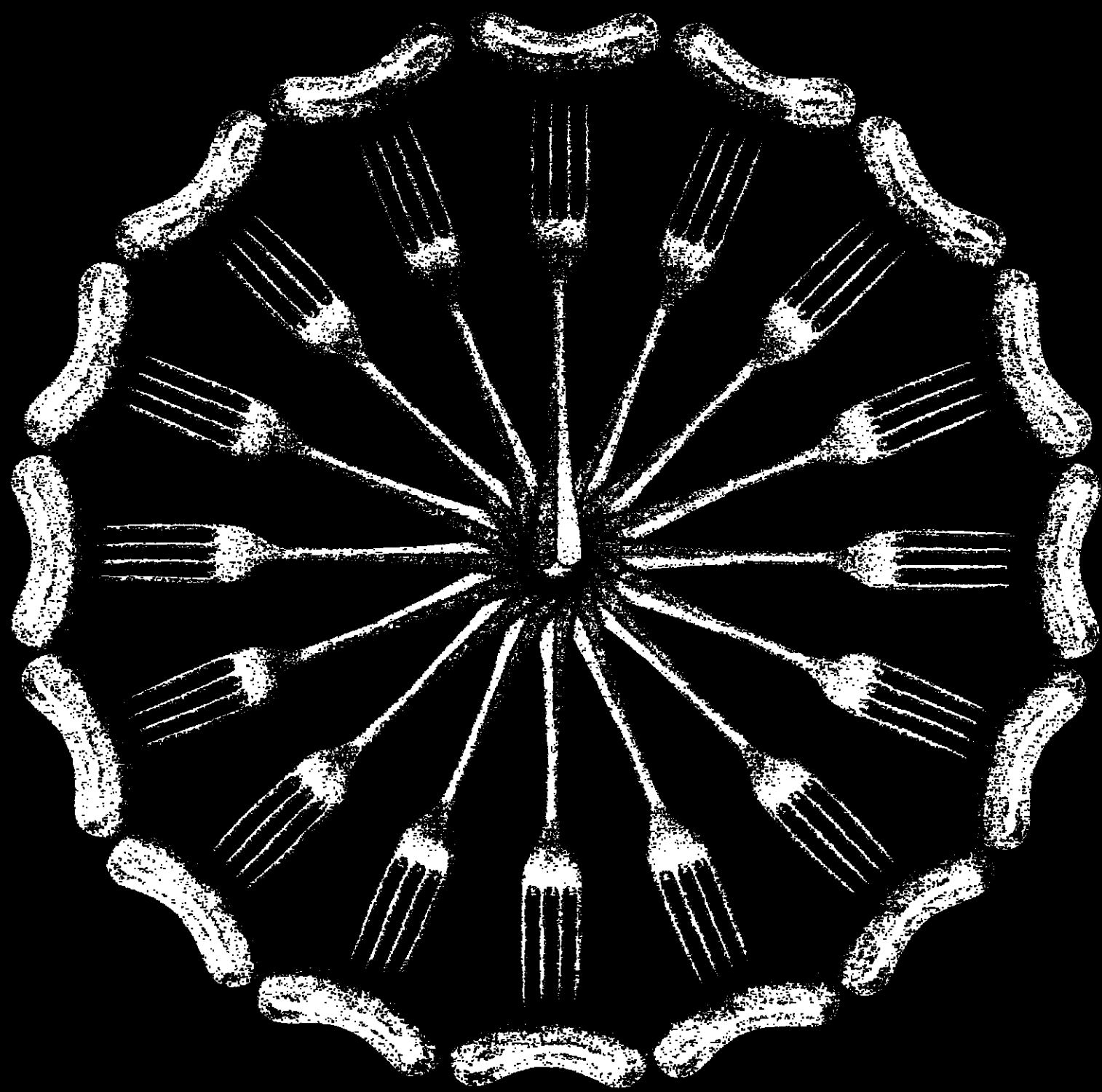
Mannheim: A German court ruled that Peter Graf, 58, the father of the tennis star Steffi Graf, must stay in jail while he is tried for tax evasion, overturning a ruling that would have allowed him to be freed on bail of £1,280,000. The High Court in Karlsruhe said there was still a danger that Mr Graf, 58, and the family tax adviser, Joachim Eckardt, might flee. (Reuters)

New Okinawa rape charge

Tokyo: Weeks after Okinawans voted overwhelmingly against the huge US military presence, an American soldier, Staff Sergeant Michael Owens, is under investigation for allegedly raping a Japanese woman, officials at Kadena Air Base said. A preliminary hearing is to be held on Friday. (AFP)

Green-light area

Taipei: Taiwan police said they had cut off water and power from 188 sex parlours here in the past week, forcing them to close, and promised to close the remaining 103 by the end of yesterday. (Reuters)



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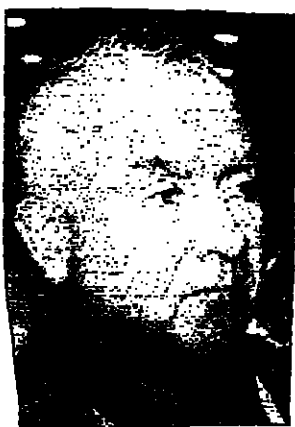
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Rodionov: admired within the army

Nato anxious to learn strategy of Lebed-backed defence chief

By MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

NATO defence ministers get their first chance today to appraise General Igor Rodionov, their Russian counterpart appointed after the sacking of Pavel Grachev in July. The general, 59, with a reputation as a conservative and strictly military defence minister, will be at an informal meeting of alliance defence ministers at Bergen in Norway.

The meeting's timing is fortuitous because of the serious doubts

emerging about the ailing President Yeltsin's ability to continue as Russian leader. General Rodionov is a close ally of General Aleksandr Lebed, the Russian security chief, who is seen as a possible successor to Mr Yeltsin.

Although General Rodionov is not a political animal, his appointment as Defence Minister was engineered largely by General Lebed and the two share views about the need for military reforms and more discipline both in the armed forces and in Russia itself.

Nato's defence ministers will

learn today whether General Rodionov also shares General Lebed's hawkish stance against the alliance's plans to expand its membership to include countries from the former Warsaw Pact. In an interview in *The Daily Telegraph* yesterday, General Lebed said Moscow would hit back at German and American industrial interests in Russia if the expansion plans went ahead. He even suggested Germany was trying to build a new empire in the East.

Yevgeni Primakov, the Russian Foreign Minister, said last week

that the stationing of Nato troops and weapons closer to Russia's borders would be unacceptable.

General Rodionov comes to Bergen with an uncompromising past. In April 1995 he was commander when Russian troops used poison gas and sharpened spades against unarmed Georgian demonstrators in Tbilisi. Twenty people died.

He headed the General Staff's prestigious academy before taking over from General Grachev and is widely respected in the army. General Lebed has described him as a professional of a high standard, "an

elite general who combines practical and theoretical skills".

Tomorrow General Rodionov is expected to sign an agreement with America and Norway dealing jointly with nuclear and other waste stored or dumped in the Arctic by the former Soviet Union.

Norway has been pressing for an agreement in an effort to get international action over radioactive waste around Russia's Kola peninsula, the main base for its nuclear submarine force.

The Kola bases now represent an environmental rather than a mili-

tary threat, and cleaning up radioactive pollution there has become a key issue in Norwegian foreign policy.

The agreement will also deal with the dumping at sea of whole nuclear reactors during the Communist era.

□ Moscow: General Lebed yesterday denied that he had given the interview to *The Daily Telegraph* in which he was said to have attacked Germany and America (Richard Beeston writes). Yesterday, however, the newspaper stood by the article.

Yeltsin's hospital no fit shelter for the squeamish

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Yeltsin would be well advised to keep his eyes firmly shut as he approaches the sprawling and dilapidated hospital outside Moscow where he is due to undergo multiple bypass surgery.

Although the Cardiology Research Centre is usually described as "elite" by those who have never been there, one recent visitor remarked, only half in jest, that its appearance could be enough to give you a heart attack.

Yesterday, for instance, even the bright autumnal sunshine could not lift the gloomy atmosphere at the huge complex, built as a monument to Soviet medical achievement but now epitomising the neglected state of Russia's health care.

Like some prehistoric beast dying on its feet and shedding limbs on the way, some of the hospital's far-flung buildings have been abandoned by staff and left to the elements. Outside the hospital, stray dogs scavenge for food, abandoned cars lie rusting near the car park, and wild vegetation has colonised whole areas of the grounds, including the pavements.

Inside, the scene is little better. Long, draughty corridors are unheated and dimly lit, while staff seem mainly engaged in smoking cigarettes and chatting.

Russia's medical authorities insist that the hospital is

staffed by world-class physicians offering an effective, no-frills service on a par with the West. Certainly the gleaming operating theatre, where chief surgeon Renat Akhchurin is scheduled to conduct the open-heart operation on President Yeltsin, appears to an untrained eye to have the latest European equipment.

Dr Akhchurin, who trained in America with the pioneering heart surgeon Michael DeBakey, carries out about 150 bypass operations a year with a 98 per cent success rate, similar to that found in the West. Among his more famous patients were Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Prime Minister, and Oleg Lobov, the former National Security Adviser, who were instrumental in persuading President Yeltsin to have surgery.

In spite of the impressive

statistics, doctors at the hospital say privately that the Russian leader, or anyone else who can afford it, should go abroad. Russia's health care system has virtually collapsed since the end of Communism, and the life expectancy of men is now 57, a fall of six years since 1991.

Aside from basic problems such as poor surroundings and questionable hygiene, the Russians simply lack the breadth of experience of other nations. When it comes to heart bypass surgery, for instance, 3,000 operations were performed in the country last year compared with about half a million in America.

When Sergei Kovalyev, the leading human rights campaigner, decided to have the same operation as President Yeltsin, he was advised by the same Kremlin doctors to go abroad, an option not available to the Russian leader because of national pride.

Part of the problem is low morale. Senior physicians earn on average about £100 a month and are forced to supplement their income through private practice. Many of the most talented doctors simply emigrate.

The situation is so bad that two reporters being taken on a guided tour of the facility this month had their purses stolen in the very changing room where doctors will dress before operating on the Russian leader.



Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Russian Prime Minister, gives President Yeltsin flowers during their meeting at the Central Clinical Hospital yesterday

Doctors will tell Yeltsin their surgery verdict today

FROM THOMAS DE WAAL
IN MOSCOW

BORIS YELTSIN'S doctors meet today to tell the Russian President if and when he should have heart surgery.

The doctors will meet in the Central Clinical Hospital, the old Politburo clinic, where Mr Yeltsin is having treatment, to consult with him directly about the best course of action.

The American heart surgeon Michael DeBakey, 88, will be present to give his "second opinion" on the need for an operation.

No time has been set for any announcement and there are more questions than answers on the subject, Sergei Yastrzhembsky, Mr Yeltsin's press secretary, refused to comment yesterday on the possibility that the operation might have

to be cancelled altogether, saying: "I am not a doctor." He also advised reporters "not to hurry" with the hypothesis that the President might have to resign on health grounds.

Mr Yastrzhembsky denied a report that Mr Yeltsin was able to work only 15 minutes a day. He said that the President had used Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Prime Minister, for "more than 30 minutes", his

third such meeting in eight days. He worked every day for between half an hour and two and a half hours and worked through a "swollen file" of between 20 and 70 documents.

Moscow is full of rumours that the President's condition is worse than is being admitted in public and that he has complications with his liver and kidneys. That appears to be the reason why the opera-

tion, if it does happen, is being tentatively scheduled for November, not the end of this month as first planned.

Hans Borst, a German heart surgeon attending a conference on cardiovascular surgery which opened in Moscow yesterday, even suggested that if "additional complications" cropped up Mr Yeltsin might have to undergo a heart transplant operation.

Gainsbourg the exhibitionist to star in his daughter's museum

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

THE demure French actress Charlotte Gainsbourg, who stars in the latest version of *Jane Eyre* released this week, is planning to open a Paris museum in memory of her late father, Serge, the dissolute pop star.

Miss Gainsbourg, 25, whose mother is Jane Birkin, the English actress, recently bought the house on the Left Bank where her father died in 1991 after a life dedicated to alcohol, cigarettes, music, women and scandalising his straight-laced compatriots.

The wall in front of the building on the Rue Verneuil in the Latin Quarter is festooned with graffiti left by the singer's fans, and Miss Gainsbourg now intends to turn it into a shrine to her father's music and peculiar brand of public misbehaviour.

Preparing for the opening of Franco Zeffirelli's new film on Friday, Miss Gainsbourg emphasised that her own temperament is closer to that of Jane Eyre than Jane Birkin. "I'm very different from them, but I'm still proud of my upbringing," Miss Gains-

bourg said. "I went to my first nightclub at the age of two. My parents belonged to another era."

The house where Gainsbourg and Miss Birkin threw their legendary parties cannot hold more than 100 people at a time, and entry to the future Serge Gainsbourg museum is likely to be by appointment.



Serge Gainsbourg with his actress daughter Charlotte

Miss Gainsbourg said. Exhibits are expected to include her father's trademark pinstripe suits and tennis shoes, as well as the remnants of his wine cellar and his extensive collection of ashtrays.

Gainsbourg was seldom sober and never seen without a Gauloise stuck to his lip, characteristics which led to

several heart attacks, a liver operation and his death at the age of 62. In 1969 Gainsbourg and Miss Birkin gained massive fame and condemnation with *Je T'Aime (Moi Non Plus)*, a pseudo-coital heavy-breathing exercise, set to a string accompaniment, which was attacked by the Vatican, banned by the BBC and immediately shot to number one in the British charts.

Although now cast in a more staid role, when Charlotte Gainsbourg was 12 she collaborated with her father on another throaty and dubious duet entitled *Lemon Zest*, a pun on the word incest, and then a film directly addressing that subject, *Charlotte Forever*, in which she and her father end up in bed together.

"It was big scandal at the time, but I didn't care what people thought," Miss Gainsbourg said.

Her life is far different from that of her father. She assiduously steers clear of scandal and lives a quiet life in the Paris flat off the Champs Elysees she shares with Yvan Attal, her actor boyfriend.

Former French minister 'plotted to kill writer'

By BEN MACINTYRE

A FRENCH writer said yesterday that Roland Dumas, the former Socialist minister who is now president of the Constitutional Council, plotted to have him killed in 1984 because he knew too much about the late President Mitterrand's administration. "I accuse Roland Dumas of having wanted to kill me," Jean-Edern Hallier said at a press conference yesterday to launch a book containing the allegations. It is called *Les Puissances du Mal* (The Powers of Evil).

A lawyer acting for M Dumas said that the former Foreign Affairs Minister would not respond directly to the accusations. "M Hallier is

M Hallier has offered no evidence of the alleged plot to kill him, but said yesterday: "I have proof." The flamboyant writer has waged a long and bitter battle against Mitterrand, once a close friend, dating back to 1982 when he wrote a book, *L'Honneur Perdu de François Mitterrand* (The Lost Honour of François Mitterrand), revealing the existence of Mitterrand's illegitimate daughter and his wartime role as an official of the collaborationist Vichy Government.

That book was rejected by 17 publishers and M Hallier says that his telephone and those of his friends were

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The return of the English dandy

Richard E. Grant may have made his name in the archetypal scruffy film, *Withnail and I*, but to Mulberry he represents "English style with a bohemian twist".

The traditional British design company has chosen him, along with Bob Geldof, another sometime scruff, to star in their latest advertising campaign. Both Grant and Geldof appear as latter-day Beau Brummells, modelling the new Guinea Collection, a range of made-to-measure suits.

But this is bespoke tailoring with an edge. There are 65 cloths to choose from, including plaids and velvets. Flamboyant colours can be used for the linings. Quirky details can be added such as button flies, ticket pockets, pleats, structured lapels and workable button cuffs.

Mulberry is not striking out alone. Dandyism is back for men, and with it made-to-measure tailoring. Even Marks & Spencer, spiritual home of the off-the-peg suit, has introduced a made-to-measure service at a City of London branch.

This revival has been given a huge boost by the film industry. Tom Cruise wore suits by Timothy Everest, a new wave London tailor, in *Mission Impossible*. Afterwards he ordered several for himself. Now Grant is filming a British movie, *Food For Love*, and has had three Mulberry suits made for it.

Of course, we expect careful styling on the film set. But can "real" men afford to be seen trying too hard with their wardrobes? After all, what we're talking about here is narcissism with a capital N: long fitting sessions, almost obsessive attention to detail, and plenty of looking in the mirror.

On the other hand, there's something rather special about clothes that fit and don't come apart at the cleaners'. Eight measurements are taken — natural waist, half-back, waist, sleeve length, height, chest, jacket length and seat.

The clothes are not hand-stitched, but features associated with bespoke tailoring have been incorporated. There is an extended front canvas area, blindstitched on to the cloth to create a lapel roll. The jacket also brings the shoulders forward.

In short, a Guinea suit is a major engineering feat, and is not for those who like instant gratification. After the initial fitting, the suit will take eight weeks. The cost will be anything from £695 to £950.

If this sounds steep, then bear in mind that Beau Brummell, the most famously elegant Englishman, was driven to France by debt. The Guinea Collection is available from Mulberry, 41-42 New Bond St, London. Tel 0171-491 3002.

GRACE BRADBERRY
STYLE EDITOR



Bohemian twist Richard E. Grant wears a made-to-measure suit from Mulberry's Guinea Collection

Where have all the dangly earrings gone?



Naomi Campbell favours tiny earrings; Demi Moore doesn't



WHEN did you last see a really big pair of earrings — the sort that could catch on doors, or block a sink in an emergency?

The chances are that it was a long time ago. In fact, it's probably quite a while since you noticed anything in fashion magazines that was larger than a small diamond stud.

Over the past year earrings have all but vanished. Even in *Hellot*, once the spiritual home of large ruby clusters, you'd be hard pressed to find a really dangly pair. Kate Moss, Naomi Campbell, Julia Carling, and glitzy Tamara Beckwith, all favour bare ears, or discreet diamond studs.

"It's all to do with minimalism and a reaction against the Eighties," says Vivienne Becker, jewellery editor of *Harpers & Queen*. "It's also part of the Seventies revival when jewellery became very simple."

The trend suits British women, particularly those who spend their days in business clothes, because we have never felt terribly at ease

with chandeliers hanging from our ears. "But earrings are getting bigger again," says Ms Becker.

One reason for this is that flash is back. Designers are becoming excited about gold — gold chain-mail dresses, gold signet rings at Gucci, gold torques.

Until now, ears have escaped the Midas touch, but already there are signs of change. Demi Moore, until now a devotee of tiny studs, has been seen out in a pair of Elsa Peretti mesh earrings from Tiffany & Co. This month's *Vogue* trumpets "the clean contours of simple jewellery", and features gold drop earrings from Cobra & Bellamy.

So why did they disappear in the first place? Minimalism and androgyny were the key trends that shrank them. After all, whoever saw Annie Lennox in a pair of dangly diamonds?

Caroline Charles is one of the designers who has been steering women away from large earrings. "As clothes became increasingly streamlined, it became evident that earrings should reduce to small studs at most to keep the balance," she explains. Both Tom Ford at Gucci and Karl Lagerfeld at Chanel have turned their models into virtual pin-heads. Anything more than a stud earring has to be chosen with extreme care.

But change is in the air. Theo Fennell, who is associated with large jewellery, is enthusiastic. "There's been a huge swing back to big jewellery with all the baroque clothes, the velvet and the rich fabrics," he says. "Women can wear bigger earrings than they ever believe they can," he adds darkly.

GRACE BRADBERRY

A Ferrari in the bath

I got in the bath with my Ferrari this morning. And as I lay there, I leaped through the PR bump that had come with it.

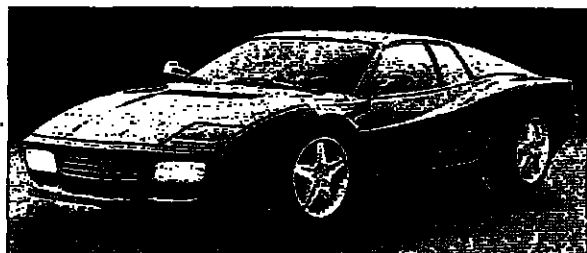
"It's invincible grandeur is due to its bright red colour and to the proud cavallino standing out on the bonnet... its forelegs stretched out towards the sky, the hind ones well anchored to the ground as if dream and realism could live together."

Poetry for the common man, indeed. For Ferrari have shifted down a gear and skidded nervily on to the uncertain road of personal grooming. As I lathered myself with their pink, jam-like, shower gel — standing up in the bath in my flakey-walled bathroom, hunched to avoid banging my head on the sloping roof, getting tangled in the underwear dangling from the washing line. I thought: "Who are they trying to kid?"

Towelled down, I grasped the round end of the thick six-inch Ferrari deodorant can, which shone on the cistern in the angry red livery so familiar to the traffic wardens of St John's Wood. Sweet as the viscous gink inside a cherry liqueur chocolate, it was a far cry

from the musky tones of my preferred Tommy by Tommy Hilfiger. (Bill Clinton's fave, don't you know, rather than the shabby aspiration of every downtrodden bagel-salesman.)

The real shocker was the *eau de toilette*. "The bright aluminium cap reveals a close link with the racing car world," claims Ferrari.



Can Ferrari transfer its macho image to toiletries?

The link presumably being that they use it to clean crusty spark plugs. The last time I put anything like that near my face was a particularly ferocious acne lotion which left holes in your face if used with inadequate caution.

This stuff has one use, and one use only. Like all those dinky models of Testarossas, it is for the impecunious girlfriend to wrap up at Christmas and say, as she hands it to her Loaded-reading, soap-dodging boyfriend, "I know how

much you wanted a Ferrari..."

Chortle, chortle, chortle. The products themselves are various mid-priced manifestations of an unastonishing pong (aftershave £19.50, deodorant £10, shower gel £10 — exclusive at, have a guess, yup, Harrods). The packaging, shiny crimson with famous logo, is aspirational. At least, it thinks it is. What it is, in truth, is miserably defeatist. For no Ferrari driver would ever wear this stuff.

It bespeaks the pathetic consumer dream of the man doomed to judder at the lights in his A-reg Austin Maestro, while inhaling the exhaust fumes of the disappearing Ferrari, and smelling, they claim, like a "universal personality".

It is supposed to be all things to all men; in reality, it is nothing to anybody, and an unwelcome distraction to a declining racing team. Muse on the fact that despite having, in Michael Schumacher, the best driver in the world, Ferrari has as much chance of winning the Formula One championship this season as Giorgio Armani.

GILES COREN

A little band of metal that says everything

SHORT of retreating to the Amish community for the past two years, it has been impossible to avoid the influence of Gucci. Tom Ford, its designer, has single-handedly

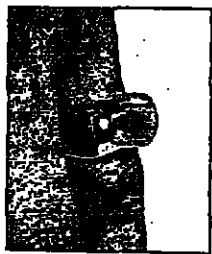
created a culture of "must-haves" and style wannabes have been joining waiting lists to secure his white bootcut trousers, slim-fitting shirts, and black pony-skin ankle-strap shoes. But even with these items, a crucial element of "the look" is still missing: the gold signet ring worn on the little finger.

At Gucci catwalk shows, both male and female models wore the ring. Among the cognoscenti, the ring is the

derrière cri in androgynous chic. Slightly feminine for men, slightly butch for women, this little band of metal says everything there is to say about gender ambiguity.

The good news is that at £60, it's one of the cheaper items in the Gucci collection.

Even so, if you have bought the rest of the look then the credit card company may be sending the bailiffs round to pick up your other worldly possessions. If a little economy is needed, there is an alternative. Fenwick's, New Bond Street, sells a rather similar gilt squish swirl ring for half the price — £28.95 (0171-629 9161).



Fenwick's gilt ring

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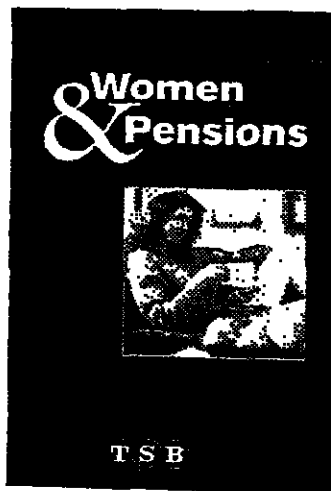
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مكتبة من الأصل

Don't be fooled by family values

A murder within one of the great political dynasties may be terrible — but it is not so very different from the kind of row we all know too well

Pity poor Benazir Bhutto that she is Pakistani. I say that not in a spirit of political incorrectness, for in the greater scheme of things being Pakistani is no lesser an estate than any other, but in one of rank ethnocentricity: in the West that country's vilest events make only Page 17 or so of the papers; some papers yesterday didn't even get round to reporting the murder of her brother and rival Murtaza.

In the story of his death and in the rumours which are, apparently, flying round Karachi, are resonances of some of the great political deaths, with dynastic echoes which stretch back centuries. There are the Caesars — Murtaza surely understood the reference when he described his sister as "a viper in the bosom" — and the fratricidal Borgias and the politically self-destructive Kennedys.

Change geography and gender and Benazir's husband is transformed into a Hillary Clinton, perceived by a weary electorate as scheming, corrupt and manipulative.

But that is the problem with political dynasties: the grand term stops you seeing them as families, stops you interpreting the killing and the plotting as ordinary familial events. Well, perhaps not so ordinary, but fuelled by the same ordinary family motivations.

To be honest, the goings-on chez Bhutto do say more about political life in that neck of the woods rather than familial life globally, but there is still a sense in which the feuds, schisms and altercations of the great dynasties are not so very different from the rows and intermittent non-speaks of less illustrious families.

That the ramifications might be greater with the Bhuttos and the Borgias is undoubtedly true, but a family row is still a family row.

Disharmony in the home is a human constant — as, indeed, the Scriptures show — but every generation tends to put a new spin on the oldest story. The modern sensibility tends towards inverted snobbery and this explains our hunger for stories that prove that the more illustrious the family, the more dysfunctional.

We seek corroboration for this in the behaviour of our home-grown princes and princesses and in the ersatz royalty — the Kennedys, the

Bhuttos, the Gandhis — of other countries. Contemporary wisdom holds that the ordinary is superior to the elite and we need to feel that the better-off behave less well than we do.

But there's more to it than that. We do seem genuinely to regard the sporadic viciousness of the family unit as strange, unnatural even. The great dynasties show the strength of family bonds; they represent the family as a force to be reckoned with. These days, when our own sense of society and family is fragmenting, we see this only as

worst characteristics. The clichés are correct on this one: blood is thicker than water. But the corollary to this is not all wonderful. The closer we feel to people, the more easily incensed by them we can be. The strength of the family can be extraordinarily powerful, but extraordinarily destructive, too.

I tend to appreciate a little more the traditional model of the family than once I used to (having children does tend to do that) but that should not mean that I thereby pledge myself to an idealised picture of the family as a morally positive place in which only sweetness and light reside.

If we're honest, we all know that the family gives rise to as many murderous thoughts as tender ones. The peculiar strength of the family in fact resides in just that. It is a dynamic entity, not a notional haven for those going down with a bad case of nostalgia.

Every belligerent thought we have in the office, every aggressive impulse in the car or the supermarket or the boardroom, stems from the family and our experience of it. This isn't a bad thing or a good one. It just is. The more sociable aspects of our nature emanate no less from the same source. We may not be defined for all time by our own early experiences, but we are certainly shaped by them. And in some sense we never escape the nursery.

But none of this accords with the quite extraordinary sentimentalisation of the family that now exists. People bemoan the demise of the great extended family even if they never get round to visiting the one aunt they may have left. It's quite understandable of course: the idea of family can be so very heartening, and the reality so very gruelling. Also, if you like to think of families as being full of caring, sharing people, it must be peculiarly galling to have to consider one's own.

All ages have their own political buzzwords. The ancients cited "justice", more recently we clung to "democracy": now we peddle endlessly the currency of "the family". Even those who should know better seem to believe that if the family is got right, all will come good. But the dysfunctional family is not some new-fangled modern aberration but merely a misnomer: it is how it's always worked; how, indeed, it functions.

What is more, any rival model to the family inevitably ends up by aping its



Nigella Lawson

a force for good. When every political party is waxing lyrical and hypocritical about home, hearth and so-called family values, it has become the norm for all of us to get a little sentimental about what those family values are.

As long as it has become a modern truism — as it has — that polite society has been eroded by one-parent families, gay rights activists and divorce, the notion that real, old-style families were full of people saying please and thank you, were full of people who even liked one another, becomes more entrenched.

No politician stands a chance unless he or she professes to "believe in the family". But this is meaningless. Believing in the family is like believing in trees rather than believing in God. It's how human beings naturally group themselves, how we procreate and survive.

What is more, any rival model to the family inevitably ends up by aping its



High-flyers: Tina Brown, photographed with husband Harry Evans, complains that she is sick and tired of having to travel on dull old Concorde

Joining the jet set

I went to the Farnborough Air Show to buy my very own personal jet. Nothing fancy, you understand, just a little eight-seater with a drinks cabinet: the kind that no self-respecting media-person with their eye on the global market should be without.

The Princess of Wales, I understand, has set her heart on one, and I do so agree with Tina Brown, Editor of the *New Yorker*, who was complaining the other day to her husband Harry Evans that she was sick and tired of being the only person at smart New York dinner parties who still had to travel on Concorde.

Farnborough is a kind of giant car boot sale of the air, except that the clientele is different. Large, fleshy men in serious suits and dark glasses, with mobile phones permanently clamped to their heads, jostle for space with glossy ladies wearing uncompromising hairstyles. Every now and then the crowd parts as a stretch limo with tinted windows hisses through, bearing a person in the back who is equipping his desert kingdom with a squadron of Tornados.

I was tempted by the Eurofighter, which took off with such a roar that I was almost started into bidding for it. There was much talk about the new Boeing 777. But really I had eyes for one machine only. I made my way purposefully towards the Learjet 60, the last word in business jets. They had put a red carpet alongside it, with chairs, and a table on which to write your cheque... but I am ahead of my story.

You do not buy a Learjet just like that. Not that is, unless you can afford £7 million upfront and the £500,000 or so a year it will cost you to service, fuel, and have your pilot on permanent standby. Don't worry, there are cheaper ways of doing it, and we'll come to them.

But the process of buying your personal aircraft is, of necessity, an unhurried one. It had begun for me several months earlier when I spotted an advertisement in *The Economist* which simply said "How to save money on your long-distance calls". Above it was depicted a Learjet 60. Below it was a telephone number — in Geneva, of course. I dialled.

Trevor Lambarth, Learjet's engaging sales director, was cordial but cautious. As I explained my position, he wondered, in the most diplomatic manner possible, whether I actually needed one of his aircraft. Had I checked out the number of man-miles covered by my business — what is known in the trade as my "total travel requirement"? Was I quite certain that scheduled flights were not a viable alternative (I shuddered); and could I, he inquired in the nicest possible way, actually afford one? I pointed out with some asperity that I was a thriving communications business in a rapidly expanding sector with a total travel requirement second to none.

Does anybody really need a personal aircraft? Magnus Linklater reports back from cloud nine

Mr Lambarth pointed out that I might care to consider various options, such as chartering a jet for occasional journeys at about £1,500 an hour, sharing it with another company, buying a second-hand one, or even going for a smaller model.

He gave me some figures which suggested that the more business trips I took, the more a business aircraft made financial sense. "A company aircraft," he informed me, "is not an extravagance, but a valuable business tool which pays for itself."

I thought that, in my case at least, extravagance was a more persuasive reason than just acquiring a "business tool", but pressed on nevertheless. I wanted the full package — what, I asked, was the point of having your own private jet if it wasn't private? I was, I must admit, daunted to note that if I wanted to buy it on the

never-never (£1.3 million down and £650,000 a month for seven years), I would have to furnish intimate details of my tax situation and three years of audited accounts. I decided to bluff it out. "Where can I have a test-drive?" I asked. "Farnborough."

And so I found myself on the red carpet, where I was introduced to Robert Agostino from Learjet's home base of Wichita, Kansas, a true enthusiast if ever there was one, and a heck of a salesman ("We'll get through this as fast as crap through a goose," he said). He sat me beside him in the cockpit and talked me through the Full Electronic Digital Control, which means, so far as I could tell, that it can virtually fly itself; the safety features, which mean it can climb to 31,000ft at 2,000ft a minute on just one engine; and

the flight management system "with approach capability", which means you are told immediately where the nearest airfield is in case of an emergency (the "heart attack routine," as Bob put it).

I nodded wisely through all this, but what I really needed to know was: how easy it was to get to the drinks cabinet, and whether the loo was finished in walnut veneer? (Answer: all too easy, and Yes). "In the end," said Bob, "it's often the lavatory that decides it. I spent three hours with a guy from Kansas talking safety and fuel consumption, and his wife walks into the john, sits down, and comes out two minutes later, saying 'We'll take it'."

I saw her point, but first I had to apply the Alan Clark test. Writing in *Punch* he laid down three conditions for a private jet: it must have room, it must have range and it must

have speed. He also added that it should have a couple of marble bathrooms and a backgammon room, but I decided that was just an ex-minister's *jeu d'esprit*.

I stood upright in the cabin (just), walked up and down, lounged about on the leather-covered armchairs, had a relaxed sit in the loo, helped myself to a pretzel, flicked the video switch and murmured instructions to my pilot to roll forward and prepare for take-off.

Then, and only then, did I abandon the dream, to Bob's obvious disappointment. I reasoned that if even Diana, Princess of Wales, with her £15 million pay-off is wondering whether she can afford one, and if even Tina Brown is still having to slum it on Concorde, then Linklater Communications Inc might just find the Learjet a plane too far.

I tapped a few lightning figures into the digital computer, swallowed my gin and tonic and reached for the intercom. "Stop the plane," I sighed. "I want to get off."

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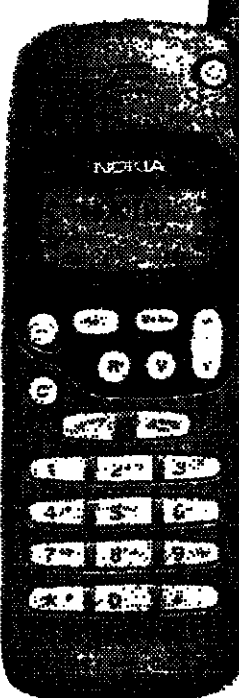
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Alan Coren

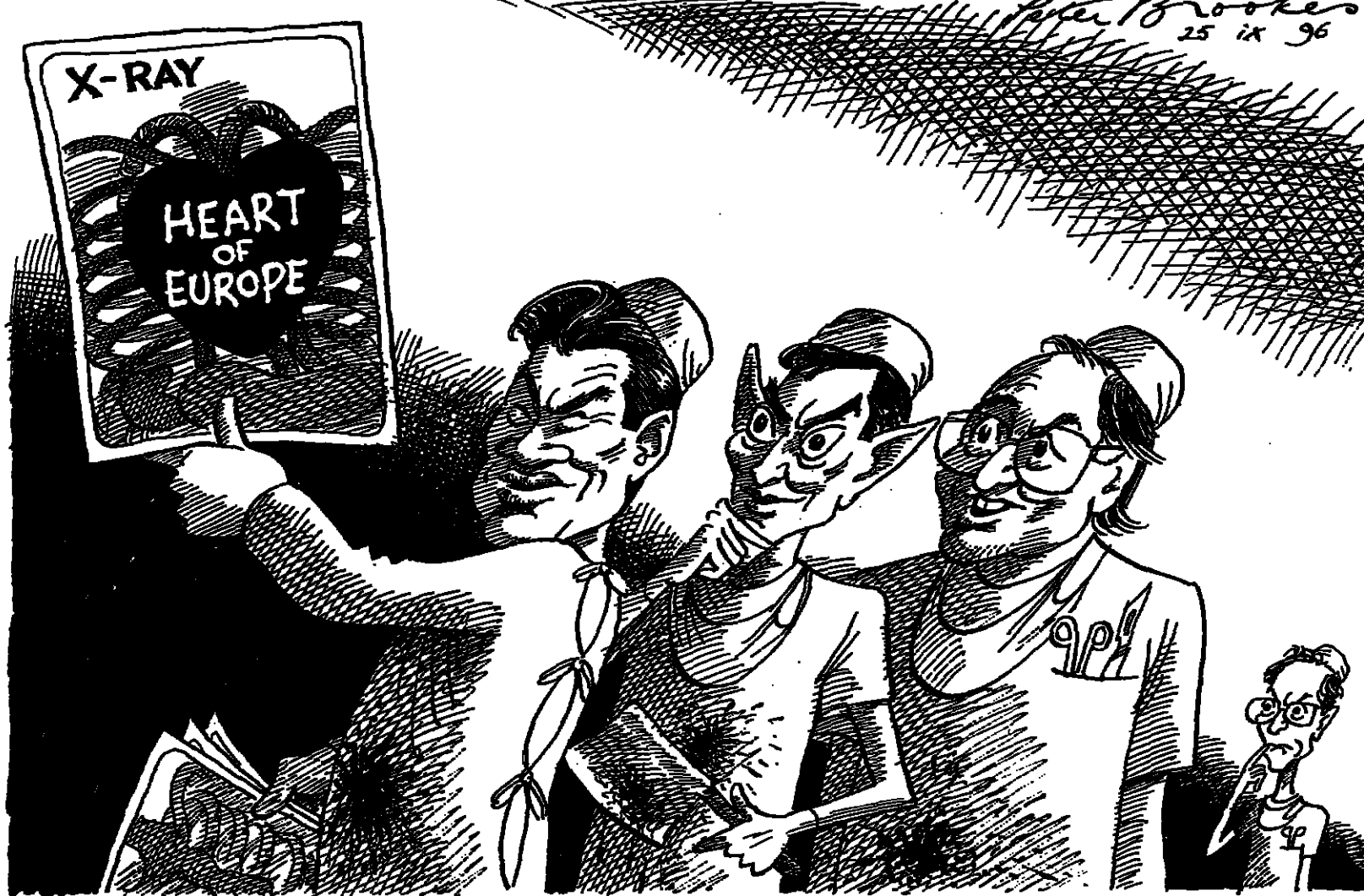
Breakfast at Hillary's:
let me be your fly on
the marmalade

It is a big day when a cliché is rewritten. It means not only that an apparently fundamental truth has been freshly perceived, but also that the world which had hitherto held that truth to be self-evident has itself been forever altered. That is why Tuesday was a very big day indeed. Up until Tuesday, we were all content to define courage as grace under pressure. Henceforth, we must all define it as Hillary under pressure. Because on Tuesday, Mrs Clinton had 125 people to breakfast.

I was not, of course, present. I am neither a top catwalk queen nor a reflexologist of the first water, my name is not a household word where international toiletries barons or bullion butts forgo, the only newspapers I own are stored against the cat's incontinence, and I have borne the Prince of Wales no heirs. But an imagination requires no embossed stiffie to flash at Marine Corps bouncers, an imagination can get in anywhere. That is why mine now yields to none in its boundless admiration for the First Lady's social bottle. For while dinner for 125 may be an elegant delight and luncheon for 125 a rollicking gas, what can breakfast for 125 be but an absolute nightmare? We all know breakfast.

It is the enormous East Scullery of the White House, and the world's leading newly woken are shuffling in, struggling to focus gummy eyes upon their placements before slumping at a dozen Fornica-topped tables, each with a leg wonky enough to ensure the spillage of any crockery placed upon it. Many of these dawn invitees are yawning, some are scratching, several are coughing or bugling their noses into wrinkled handkerchiefs, a few are examining sleep-crumb between thumb and forefinger, one or two are attempting to remove from their footwear the fragments of dogfood that the Clinton pets have scattered about the linoleum, and the rest are staring blankly at the newspapers propped against their ketchup bottles.

There is precious little conversation: from time to time, an extract of this news story or that is read out ineptly through a mouthful of Coco Pops, or a senior senator exchanges the previous night's prostate anecdotes with the ancient banker beside him, or a bestselling moral philosopher begins to describe to the major fashion editor opposite this funny dream he had where he was standing in a bucket and holding a hedgehog but loses the plot when she asks him if he can see any organic marmalade anywhere, or a distinguished Emeritus Professor of Aromatherapy passes his boiled egg across to a *jolie laide* Oscar nominee to ask if it smells funny to her, or a billionaire civil-rights lawyer launches into a long explanation about his shirtless being wet as the result of his cufflink having rolled under the bidet, to say nothing of his having banged his head on the washbasin when he stood up, which accounts for the Band-Aid on his ear, does anyone else have those days when you know you should have stayed in bed, ha-ha, or a Supreme Court justice launches into an insistent outburst concerning the fact that he has just spent 20 minutes assembling the plastic Smurf that fell out of his cereal packet only to find that its left leg is missing — but do not look, at 7.30am, for the authoritative gossip, the unique insight, the brilliant *aperçu*, the immortal epigram, the uproarious joke that could accompany 125 lunchtime crayfish or 125 evening grouse, for breakfast brains are never in shape to marshal such competencies, even if breakfast tongues were not too busy to articulate them. It is all they can do, when their minions gallop round to the White House with their mail, to cry "Will you look at this bloody phone bill!" or "Who do we know in Pangbourne?" or to instigate a really interesting debate on the proposition that it is about time something was done about all this junk mail. But, oh say, notwithstanding the total unpropitiousness of the hour, what else can you see by the dawn's early light? Yes, of course, flitting with relentless charm between the tables, greeting here, chatting there, the new sun winking alike on the mismatched orthodontics of the world's most ambitious smile and the brass neck required to keep it smiling, it is the woman who could have us all for breakfast.



"WE RECOMMEND A BYPASS..."

Crimes of the punishers

Misleading Home Office figures are
tough on the truth about crime, and a
figleaf for the politics of retribution

Crime up. Crime down. Murder down. Rape up. Theft up. Mugging down. Villains, thugs, stalkers, rapists, sex attackers, lots of sex attackers. It is crime figures week, a bonfire of statistical vanity. The dogs of the dumb are unleashed upon the world and reason takes a holiday.

Two years ago, the Government announced that the crime wave was receding. Villains were in jail and statistics were on the run. A 25 per cent rise in the prison population had done the trick. Then yesterday, something went wrong. With ministers still cheering on the breakfast, the wave came back and swamped them. "Crime up by 1 per cent," cried the radio, "welcome news for the Home Secretary." Or was it?

Yesterday saw the publication of not one set of crime figures but two. The first, the police figures, tell of crimes reported to local police stations. The other, the British Crime Survey (BCS), records the public's experience of crime and is more extensive and reliable. It suggests four times more crimes are committed than the police ever hear about, although nobody quite knows how the one figure relates to the other.

Two years ago, the police figures were down and the BCS figures up. The BCS was firmly suppressed by the Home Office, which proclaimed an "unprecedented fall in crime". Some at the time felt that this was reckless on Michael Howard's part. This year, the statisticians have got their acts together. Both totals are slightly up. What is going on?

First we must incant the twice-yearly ritual: the police figures are rubbish. They claim that 5,123,600 "crimes" were committed in England and Wales in the year to June. It remains a source of wonder to me that adults with good degrees keep doling out this nonsense. Is there no mathematician's Hippocratic Oath? The total lumps together crimes as awful as the Dunblane massacre and a stolen bicycle chain, the Manchester car bomb and a broken garage window. The crime total is the stupidest, most deceptive, yet most compelling statistic in the public sector. It is a reduction to absurdity of government standardisation. If local police want to tell citizens about their crime rates, with explanation and caveat, let them. A national figure so variable in its collection is meaningless. Yet politicians and journalists fall prostrate before it. They see a

crime rate as a statistic and statistics must be true. This one is a lie. With half of all Britons confessing to some sort of crime before the age of 25, and half also admitting to drug-taking, how much "crime" comes to the attention of the police is a function of policy and annual budgets. It is not a function of criminality. When sex crime in North Wales fell two years ago by 43 per cent it did not record some hormonal shift along the Chwyd llyn, merely the police leaving the rent boys alone in Rhyl.

Crime is an ever-changing thing. The London police previously regarded a shed like a purse left on the bus, as unrecorded carelessness. Now garden sheds are "burgled" and London burglaries have risen by 9,000. This is a definitional crime wave. Again, reported sex crime "rises" where a local police station is sympathetic to victims of domestic violence and falls where it is not. Government requests for action on domestic burglary have equally bizarre results for police recording practice. Burglary fell last year by 4 per cent, while "criminal damage" rose by 5 per cent. Ask a chief constable about this and he winks.

Police-recorded crime was decelerating throughout the first half of the decade. There are as many theories behind this fall as there are statisticians. Insurance policies were tougher, car and house protection were improving, villains were switching from (recorded) theft to (unrecorded) drug-dealing, where the prize is bigger. The figures may also have benefited from the lower prison population in the late 1980s, with fewer graduates-in-crime being released onto the streets.

The Home Secretary was warned by his officials in 1994 that if he relied on the dodgy police figures he risked them probably turning up again, uncomfort-

ably close to an election. He would have been wise to change horses and espouse the more reputable British Crime Survey. But the BCS lacked appeal at the time. It denied that there was a crime wave in the 1980s and denied there was a crime collapse in the early 1990s. While the police were shouting that property crime was falling fast, the BCS said no, it was just not being reported to the police. The BCS has long shown crime in England and Wales to be rising slowly, perhaps because we have more to steal, perhaps because we are less tolerant of misdemeanour, perhaps because we keep criminalising more human behaviour. This is politically boring.

Yet yesterday, while the ungrateful police were snacking Mr Howard with their wet fish, the BCS showed how virtue might have been rewarded. It showed an unprecedented slackening in the "true" crime rate: "the smallest ever increase recorded by the BCS". Had Mr Howard his wits about him and not boasted about the police figures for two years, he would yesterday have had the best crime figures story in Home Office history. Crime in Britain has, over the past two years, risen by less than ever before. Not just that, the fear of crime has actually diminished. This is a real achievement for community policing. I hear no Tory cheers from the rooftops.

One of the delights of social science is that nobody really knows what is happening to crime. I sense that the BCS records perceptions as much as experience, but it does record something deep in the communal psyche. Property crime does seem to slacken during boom and rise during recession. The impact of the expanding drugs industry is imponderable. The criminalisation of drugs widely consumed by blacks enables the police to turn on the "recorded crime" and "clear-up" taps at will. I imagine half the teenagers out next Saturday night could

be arrested and incarcerated for a crime if anyone wanted to boost the crime figures — and enrage half the parents to boot. The most alarming BCS figures concern violence. But of these almost half involve alcohol and only 16 per cent drugs. With companies now advertising alcoholic "pop" with drinks on the labels, small wonder drunken violence is rising and youths are cynical about adult double standards.

Each theory of the crime figures implies a different remedy. Decriminalising drugs might send the crime rate plummeting but not the consumption rate. In New York, a lenient policy towards off-street drug offences has led to a fall in on-street pushing and on-street crime, and to a wide public perception that crime overall is falling. New York's experiment in "zero tolerance policing" appears to be working. By sweeping away petty signs of public disorder, graffiti, begging, peddling, loitering or public prostitution, the New York police have "recaptured the streets". Reported crime has fallen by over 50 per cent in some areas and the police's reputation has soared, so much so that the Mayor has sacked the police chief for courting popularity.

Britain is about to imitate a different American experiment, that of mass incarceration based on mandatory sentencing. This is the Californian model. In California it has broken the bank. The prison population was trebled in the 1980s and the state is having to spend \$3 billion a year on the highest-paid warders, the most lavish staffing ratios and the most violent prisons in America. Yet in a celebrated survey, California's violence rate was shown to be identical to that of Texas, whose prison population rose by just 17 per cent. California's three-strikes policy is on the point of collapse. The police feels no safer. More prisons may be a rubber dummy to an insecure government. They are rotten policy. The British Treasury must be mad to authorise them.

To me, the message of yesterday's figures is that more prisons make no sense. The rate of increase in crime appears to have begun slackening off since 1993. There is no reason for hysteria or hyperbole. Public fear is falling. The policies that preceded these figures appear at the very least not to have made crime worse. I call that good news.

Simon
JenkinsThe IRA
reaps the
whirlwindTerrorist options
are narrowing, says
Michael Evans

The IRA has had one of its worst setbacks for years. Every move by the terrorist organisation in the past two months has been pre-empted by the authorities. Accurate intelligence and unprecedented co-operation between the police and MI5 are paying off. It would be tempting to suggest that the Provisional IRA is about to meet the fate of other terrorist organisations, such as the Italian Red Brigades or Germany's Baader Meinhof, whose two decades of anarchic violence was brought to an end with multiple arrests and shoot-outs in the late 1980s. However, apart from the commitment to violence, there are few other common denominators between the IRA and these past terrorist groups operating in Europe. Once they had gone, either killed or imprisoned, their cause died with them.

The IRA, however, like the Basque Euzko group, has deeply embedded roots and cannot be eliminated even by the most sophisticated military and intelligence machine, despite pronouncements that the war against the terrorists could be won. There have always been new recruits to fill the vacant places.

Nevertheless, the recent successes by the security authorities will force the Provisional IRA's so-called army council to review what appear to be limited options. The seven godfathers on the decision-making council have to face the fact that the security authorities appear at present to be one step ahead of them.

They have, perhaps, three options: to lie low, avoiding further arrests and eliminating whatever security lapses there may be in their normally tight cell structure; to push ahead with another bombing operation on the mainland to prove they have not been put out of business; or to return to attacks in Northern Ireland.

Those in the IRA who were always sceptical of Gerry Adams's peace strategy and signed up to it only to avoid a damaging split in the hierarchy will undoubtedly be pressing for further violence, whether on the mainland or in the Province. The quartermasters, the key figures in charge of the explosives dumps and Kalashnikovs, still have an abundance of bomb-making material.

The IRA has already lost a number of its most experienced activists this year. They can be replaced but fresh recruits need training, and with the risk of capture now so high there will be a strong element of doubt in the minds of those who are volunteered for the next attack. Unlike the fanatical Islamic terrorist organisations, the IRA has never shown any inclination towards suicide missions.

For an organisation that has only 300-400 frontline activists, the loss of up to 30 IRA members so far this year, either killed, arrested or compromised and on the run, will have had a devastating impact on both its infrastructure and its confidence.

Whether or not the security authorities have succeeded in nurturing highly placed moles inside the IRA camp, the series of arrests after precision surveillance operations indicate that intelligence-gathering by the Royal Ulster Constabulary Special Branch, MI5, the Metropolitan Police and the plethora of other special units that try to outmanoeuvre the IRA has reached a new peak of effectiveness.

Security sources warn against optimism. Two years ago, some senior police and Security Service figures were convinced that an IRA ceasefire lasting more than a year would begin to destroy the motivation for terrorism among the sleepers and so-called active-service units. That proved wrong. The ceasefire lasted 17 months. Throughout that period, the IRA never stopped training, carrying out dummy runs, targeting potential victims and developing new mortars and other terrorist devices. When the IRA army council decided to return to violence, it achieved instant success with the explosion at South Quay in the London Docklands in February. The bomb in Manchester also demonstrated that the IRA could still vary its tactics and that it remained a formidable opponent.

However, while the IRA has proved it still has the motivation to pursue its bombing campaign, its leaders are now trapped. The door to the peace talks has been closed, Gerry Adams, Martin McGuinness and the rest of the IRA's political frontmen have lost all credibility and to many in the IRA the only option left is to continue bombing.

If they revert to bombings in Northern Ireland they will face instant reprisals by better organised and better armed loyalist terrorists and they will run the risk of losing what support there is among the nationalist community. The Government in the Irish Republic, which has tried recently to sound optimistic about the future and has much to lose if all hope of another ceasefire vanishes, would also come under even greater pressure to clamp down on the IRA terrorists living south of the border.

Unless the IRA takes the easiest option — lying low — there seems every chance that the bombers will be back in action on the mainland. But there will be a big difference. Since the South Quay and Manchester bombs, the police and Security Service have succeeded in converting general intelligence into highly accurate information which has destroyed two suspected IRA operational units. With similar intelligence work in the future, the IRA could come to regret ending the ceasefire.

Odd couple

FOREIGN Office Minister Sir Nicholas Brown's bull-necked attack on Kenneth Clarke yesterday once again tore open Tory wounds over Europe and the single currency. But Sir Nicholas, a pukka baronet from the shires and direct descendant of Horatio Nelson, has always been eclectic in his choice of foes and friends.

His most memorable contribution to any debate in the Commons came in the late 1980s, when he rose to the defence of his pair, the mace-wielding former MP Ron

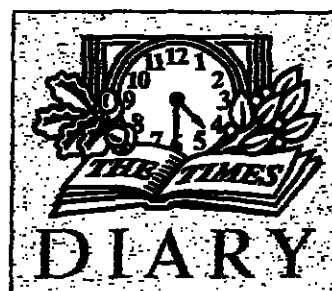
Brown. When all MPs about him were demanding disciplinary action against Brown, Bonor rose majestically in chalk-stripe from his seat to defend the yobbish behaviour of the representative for Edinburgh Leith.

Brown, he said during the debate, was an MP of "integrity and honesty" and deserved leniency from parliamentary colleagues. The Chancellor, on the other hand, was "out of line" this week with his views on Europe.

Leading Euphorists were appalled that Bonor had broken the unwritten code that ministers do not attack each other in public. "Nicholas is an honourable and decent country squire," said one. "He was the president of Pop at Eton, and Captain of Boats. And he is most unlikely to hold a position of comparable power for the rest of his life."

Child's play

WHILE Binyamin Netanyahu and his frightening wife hit Britain yesterday, back in Tel Aviv their newly appointed nanny was sweating. She is the Netanyahu family's fourth nanny in as many



years and has arrived hard on the heels of the 21-year-old South African, Tanya Shaw, who was sacked for burning soup. Tanya followed a New Zealander who arrived after a Briton. Both of them have related hideous tales of Mrs Netanyahu's erratic behaviour.

Yesterday London's Israeli Embassy was aware of the sensitivity of the nanny issue and was reluctant to discuss who was looking after Netanyahu's children at home. Asked about childcare arrangements, they screamed with laughter, saying: "You really expect us to tell you about that?"

Conservative Students, a voluntary organisation, has endured a setback in its annual university recruitment drive. Ten thousand copies of a leaflet planned for freer fairs across the country have been pulped after the discovery of four spelling mistakes. For

starters, the word Conservative was wrongly spelt.

No show

FINALLY we have an answer to the embarrassing dearth of celebrities from the launch of Joan Collins' autobiography *Second Act* last week. The book's sleeve trumpets a woman "who has known a vast cast from Brando to Brannagh, from Monroe to Madonna". The prospective guest list for the bash was impressive: the Aga Khan, Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber, Roger



"A brick through Clarke's window doesn't count"

Moore, Sean Connery et al. In the event, La Collins made do with such B-listers as Christopher Biggins and Michael Winner. "These people were just friends," she draws. "We didn't ask people just because they were celebrities." Just as well.

Wet back

ANOTHER soggy grandee is to come out on behalf of Europe at the Conservative Party conference. Following in the trail blazed by Sir Edward Heath and his five pals, Lord Walker of Worcester (better known as Peter Walker) is emerging from hiding to give his first political speech since he left the Cabinet six years ago.

The former Secretary of State for Wales will speak at a dinner given by the Tory Reform Group, but he says he hasn't yet prepared what he has to say. "It is my first political performance since I left the Cabinet," he conceded yesterday. "I take the view, unlike some others, that when you go, you speak rather less."

Race girl

NEXT stop on the Diana, Princess of Wales, World Tour will be Australia. Yesterday she enjoyed a glitter breakfast with Hillary Clin-



Diana: at the races

ton at the White House. Now she has been invited as a guest of honour to the Melbourne Cup, the Antipodean answer to Ascot, in October.

She can be sure of a warm reception from both the republican tendency and the floral hat brigade. Her invitation will come as a snub to Buckingham Palace, which would doubtless prefer a member of their own troupe to attend. "This is a big invitation," said one Australian observer. "As an Aussie cultural high-spot, only Darwin's wet T-shirt contest rivals the Melbourne."

P.H.S



Brown: amazing mace

هكذا من الأصل

DENIS DOWLING

Twenty-four hitherto unrecorded drawings by the English artist, George Stubbs (1724-1806), have come to light through the preparations for the Royal Academy's forthcoming exhibition. They are studies in various media for *The Anatomy of the Horse*, the great book of engravings published in 1766 which made Stubbs the name as anatomist and as artist, and which launched his career as a painter of horses. A whole series of preparatory drawings had been bequeathed to the Royal Academy in 1879 by Charles Landseer, the brother of Sir Edwin Landseer, who had bought them over 50 years before from their first owner. For some reason no record of the total number of drawings in the bequest had been entered in the Academy's books, and though 18 were selected for mounting, it was found that another 24, unmounted, still existed in the portfolio in the Academy Library was presently

Channel 4's gritty eccentricity can't afford shareholders

An unsuitable case for privatisation

What's so special about Channel 4? Sir Robin Day can be scathing. Bumped into at a party, he defied me to explain what all the fuss over privatisation was about. Where does this supposed distinctiveness lie? He would not take the Channel 4 Seven O'Clock News for an answer.

The point about Channel 4 cannot be made by singling out any single programme. You see things on it that you would not see on any other channel. One has the feeling that not quite so many lawyers and fact-checkers have vetted anything controversial on Channel 4, that its gays and lesbians are less scrubbed up and mated than BBC2's, and that its bought-in American material is bolder.

What's special is the way Channel 4 is paid for. Its "remit" is not fiction, but regulatory fact. Nowhere else in the world (letters, please, if I'm wrong) can an advertising-supported commercial television channel be forced by law to be unpopular — that is, to seek out the nooks and crannies of special interests and address those.

I find it hard to take the spectre of privatisation seriously. Where's the threat coming from? Virginia Bottomley, the Heritage Secretary, is not keen on it. Anyway, there's no time left in the present Parliament. Any change in the status of Channel 4 would require a new Broadcasting Bill. MPs are still limping with exhaustion from the one just passed.

And can you imagine the Labour Party call for privatising Channel 4, when it has set its face against more privatisation? Tony Blair has even written to Channel 4 to say... Well, as Blair's actual letter has not been published, reports vary as to the extent of the reassurance he has offered Horseferry Road. But it hardly matters. There are no votes in Channel 4 for either main party.

Yet the campaign to save the channel is real enough. PACT, the television producers' association, is lobbying its members to protest to their MPs. The Campaign for Quality Television will plead at the Labour Party conference that privatisation should not be allowed to happen. And the emotional performance turned in by Michael Grade, Channel 4's chief executive, at the Edinburgh Television Festival, made it seem as if the sell-off was just around the corner.

Is all this effort a mere pre-emptive strike? The ardent defenders say no way; that they are gearing up against a terrifyingly real threat that began in the back rooms of 10 Downing Street and is now alive and well living in the Treasury.

According to their nightmare scenario, no party needs propose the privatisation. Instead, proceeds from a putative sell-off could slip into the Treasury's Red Book of future income and expenditure. Then Blair comes into power, looks at the books and pronounces that the mess is far worse than he expected and, with regret, that he is unable to forgo expected revenues. Ergo, Channel 4 ends up sold, privatised by stealth and inadvertence.

Still, I'm doubtful. Channel 4 would be privatised over the dead bodies of the two other commercial terrestrial channels, ITV, a.k.a. Channel 3, doesn't want Channel 4 set free to compete for the mainstream audience and advertisers. ITV is already worried about Channel 5, which has worries enough of its own. Hoping to come on air next January, February, June or July, or whenever it has returned a sufficient number of the nation's videos, Channel 5 will have trouble enough building an audience without having Channel 4 wandering into its path.

Perhaps the best safeguard is that no one knows what the channel is worth. A City merchant banker speaking at Edinburgh ventured that the channel is worth far less than the £1.5 to £2 billion being headily talked about.

Let's hope that the idea is too impractical to get off the ground. For, as the Campaign to Save the World Service told the Foreign Office last week in a defence against a far more real threat: "The damage will be irreversible."

Should Channel 4 lose its statutory corporation status, I'll bet that Sir Robin would notice the difference. Perhaps Channel 4 should woo him for an alternative Question Time. He retired too soon.

The only time I ever heard the classic cry "Hold the front page", a priest was responsible. It was on the improbably named Quincy, Massachusetts, Patriot-Leader, an afternoon suburban daily south of Boston. Just before the second edition, we heard that the fire department of a major town in the paper's circulation area had been called to the rectory of the local Catholic church. A few minutes later came the news that the fire was rather bigger than expected, then that a body had been found, then that it was the pastor.

A hush settled over the usually hoisterous newsroom. The emerging picture — a smouldering pipe fallen from a somnolent hand after a glass or two or three at lunch — offered a glimpse into the loneliness of daily life in the rectory.



BRENDA MADDOX

An easy way to give to charity

ONE company has devised a novel way of enticing reporters to attend a press event. Instead of appealing to their baser instincts with the usual promise of free booze and food it is giving them an opportunity to occupy a place on the moral high ground.

The launch next Tuesday of a directory on HIV and Aids, sponsored by GlaxoWellcome, makers of Aids drug AZT, offers no fancy menus or vintage champagne. Instead, GlaxoWellcome promises to donate £50 for every journalist who attends to the Aids charity. Crusaid, which is organising the event.

No definition of a journalist is offered in the invitation, which comes from the PR company Burson-Marsteller. All Aids supporters, pens at the ready, are therefore advised to attend the Informa-

tion Exchange at Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, in west London, at 7pm on Tuesday, October 1, and see their £50 cheques safely paid over.

The invitation does not wholly eschew the usual hospitality: it promises that the presentation will be short followed by "a chance for refreshments".

NOW that Express Newspapers have unleashed the firing squad to carry out the 85 sackings in the wake of the "seven-day" merger between the Daily Express and the Sunday Express, it is good to hear that the staff have not lost their sense of humour.

After watching a stream of their friends and colleagues being called in and given their tickets to the knacker's yard, they have come up with a new nickname for Richard Addis, Editor of the Daily Express. He is now affectionately known as "Adios".

Making the news

BBC viewers could soon be treated to a snazzy new-look Six O'Clock News and Nine O'Clock News. If the growing rumours at the Beeb are to be believed, a major relaunch is being considered to play News at Ten at its own game.



McDonald: in demand



Mystic Meg: accurate?

The brains at BBC News, already keen to poach Trevor McDonald, have circulated a memo floating the idea of popularising the news with special themed programmes, surveys and more personality newscasters. But the workforce are concerned it will be a move downmarket. An insider says: "Most people think there is too much heavy foreign and economic coverage but let's not turn it into John Craven's Newsround."

THE National Lottery's resident clairvoyant, Mystic Meg, has apparently been showing unnerving accuracy of late. According to Camelot, her

predicted winners cheques bearing the names Tim and Irene. Lo and behold Irene McBeath from Hartlepool was duly named as the recipient of a £38,000 win. Ian Davies, from Kent, also picked up an identical amount. There was no sign of a winner called Tim. "In fact," Camelot says, "Tim was a cat owned by Mr Davies."

Slicing tackle

MUCH gnashing of teeth can be heard coming Canary Wharf these days. In order to finance the Daily Mirror's flashy new giveaway magazine Football Mania, staff have been told that all editorial budgets must be sliced in half to save at least £500,000 by January (ie, no foreign jolies and no big expenses claims).

The Mirror Group's management makes no apologies for its draconian cuts. Whingers, it says, can like it or lump it. But perhaps the news would have been fractionally more palatable had it not been announced on the day that news emerged that David Montgomery, chief executive of Mirror Group, had netted £1.1 million by cashing in 550 shares in the company, a profit of £608,000.

Are Labour's plans going up in smoke?



Nigel Griffiths: letter to agencies

AS THE general election looms, Tony Blair and his party are busily drawing together their policies on advertising and readdressing their hitherto rather colourful pledges — in case they actually get into power and have to act on them.

Nigel Griffiths, the Labour spokesman on consumer affairs, has invited major agencies to help to shape the party's policy on ad regulation. Mr Griffiths has sent out a letter indicating his own desire to reduce the number of laws controlling advertising and suggests those interested might like to meet on October 14 to discuss the issue.

At the same time, Labour's much-vaunted stance on banning tobacco ads is, perhaps not surprisingly, coming under particular scrutiny. Mr Blair is being "made aware" of how any ad ban would lead to massive job cuts within the tobacco industry, while his attention is also being focused on whether the proposed ban should encompass sponsorship — a special

ADVERTISING

worry for the sports industry because of the loss of vital revenues it would sustain.

ARGUABLY the biggest advertising campaign ever is being staged on behalf of Imarsat, a satellite communications system which enables people to send faxes from deserts and make phone calls from the tops of mountains, should they so wish.

The TV campaign, created by Publicis, is big in terms of geographical cover rather than spend. The first activity covers almost every land mass apart from the North Pole and plugs the illuminating fact that only 10 per cent of the Earth is covered by conventional communications.

The ads also promote the supposed necessity for people in far-flung places to get linked up to the system. At no less than \$2,000 a handset, the work

will no doubt be targeting the higher end of the socio-economic scale.

MORE news on TV shows about advertising. While BBC1 continues with its exorcising Tuesday night series After The Break, Hat Trick Productions is planning an altogether more classy programme.

The company behind Have I Got News For You is planning a similarly irreverent comedy panel show that will poke appropriate fun at all aspects of the world of ads. With a working title The Ad Game, it will run initially for seven weeks next year.

A test run took place last Tuesday with none other than Trevor Beattie, advertising's very own rent-a-quote. Whether he becomes a fixture has yet to be decided, but a Hat Trick spokesman said that they will be regularly seeking willing guinea-pigs, sorry, participants, from the industry.

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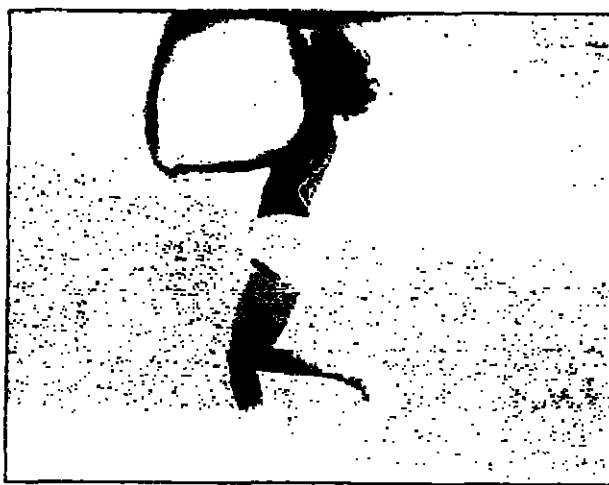
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فكرنا من الأصل



Television ads we have loved — and one we have hated: from left, Tango orange drink, Levi's jeans, Bodyform sanitary towels, and the revolutionary I Can't Believe It's Not Butter ... margarine with its memorable mad cows

I can't believe it's not better

Many TV adverts are boring and predictable because clients ignore what the professionals tell them, says Ruth Nicholas

The following television advertisement is familiar to all of us. Woman with strange serene expression hands chambermaid a life-changing sanitary towel, later seen climbing into the back of a car wearing paper-thin white shorts to the strains of "Waaaaahh... Bodyform". The theme tune has the same effect as someone scraping their fingernails down a blackboard and the plot is memorable for being so unrealistic.

Elsewhere, in a luxury kitchen, one woman demonstrates to another the amazing cleaning power of Daz/Persil/Surf soap powder and the

'American hard-sell adverts do not work over here'

second pledges to buy it. Every now and then, a man in a white coat pops up to deliver the scientific explanation in grave tones. In the bathroom, woman with beautiful hair gets excited about her shampoo, then swishes her head about a lot or, alternatively, a beauty editor gives breathy endorsement of the brand from her swivel chair.

Mass market products are responsible for the most irritating, boring, formulaic or patronising advertising on television, which begs the question: why do they do it?

If advertising agencies are to be believed, it is because that is the way the clients like it. "American companies are the worst," says Malcolm Gaskin, a former agency creative director. "They think that what works in the US, ramming home the buy-this-and-you-will-be-a-better-person proposition, will work here. It doesn't. We have a much more visual tradition."

Hiring an agency and refusing to accept its recommendations appears to be the course steered by many multinational firms. Andrew Cracknell, Ammirati Puris Lintas chairman and executive creative director, believes that "clients just don't take [advertising agencies] as seriously as they should."

Many clients want the old favourite they have always had, an advert which has worked well in one of their

many markets. Often their agencies are forced to redub or recut old films. Marketing directors want the safe option because they tend to be the most expendable member of the management team. "Some of our treatment is down to the pressures and internal politicking that marketers suffer," says Cracknell. "It is one of the few walks of life that is so public. Marketers are like football managers: three lost games on the trot and you're out, two bad commercials and you are in trouble."

Other clients do not understand the process of advertising. "Clients get terribly cross and frustrated because advertising seems to be a rather simple business. After all, it is only coming up with an idea, isn't it? They don't understand the process behind it and the sheer amount of effort and talent that really good advertising requires," says Chris Powell, BMP DDB chief executive.

Newspapers, he notes, are among the worst clients. "They really can't understand why you are labouring, or how you can take so long over their copy, when they are used to producing reams of the stuff every day," he says. "What they don't understand is that you are trying to distil the essence of their offer and that it is imperative you get it right before you commit their money to it. Unlike them, you don't have the chance to do it all over again tomorrow if you get it wrong."

Clients generally recognised as being excellent to work for include Levi's and Tango who, by allowing the advertising agency the freedom to be creative and experimental, now have some of the most memorable television advertisements ever made.

Fostering understanding between clients and agencies is vital, he says. It is to this end that marketers are subjected to four days of advertising hell in the Creative Circle role reversal course, which took place ten days ago. Delegates are made to conceive, script, cast and film a television campaign



Getting back to basics: one of the new ways to advertise Levi's jeans — and an example of the freedom to be creative and experimental granted by some big-name advertisers

'Clients get very cross because doing ads seems to be simple'

and present it to the clients from hell, played by creative directors including Cracknell and Gaskin.

The atmosphere is walk-to-wall hysteria, but the experience seems to work. "It is very easy to get divorced from what your agency is doing when you work in a big company," says a delegate from a blue chip company. "I had no idea how emotional it all is. You really believe in that idea you have spent blood, sweat and tears working on."

Whether delegates' newfound passion for advertising can be sustained back in the bureaucracy, politics and pressures of their marketing de-

partments remains to be seen. And there is another matter to be taken into account: dull advertising still sells product.

Marketing magazine's poll of the UK's most disliked television ads last year had Chicken Tonight, Daz Automatic, the National Lottery, I Can't Believe It's Not Butter and Ferrero Rocher in the top five slots. They are all hugely successful brands.

Daz has used the same formula, entitled "Daz ladies talk about Daz", for almost 30 years. It may be one of the most loathed, but the campaign has won industry-recognised effectiveness awards for its ability to shift soap powder

to a certain sort of woman. Well established and consistently advertised brands such as Daz benefit from years of familiarity or residual advertising recall. The biggest brands have the biggest budgets, therefore the greatest opportunity to ram their message home through sheer repetition.

The margarine with the ridiculous name, at number four in Marketing's survey, has captured a 7 per cent share of the market since launch five years ago with its mad cows campaign. I Can't Believe... is actually a rare example of a mass market brand opting for mould-breaking advertising: it was the first time a margarine had taken a really "in your face" approach. It was different and it got the brand noticed. Is it good advertising? The shareholders do not care.

Edward Bickham, public affairs head at Hill & Knowlton (UK), has seen a steady growth in this area of work. "There is," he says, "an understanding by some foreign governments that their diplomatic corps may be extremely polished and able diplomats but not always communication professionals."

Laura Sandys of Laura Sandys Associates (LSA), which has recently been hired to work for a Hong Kong pro-democracy group, says: "The UK is one of the natural places to come. We have one of the most sophisticated communications industries in Europe so organisations looking to audiences in the UK or in their own countries come here."

LSA's other clients have included the Peruvian Government, which wanted to promote its environmental policy. "International PR companies have always offered their services to governments, but in the new world order there are a lot more countries trying to play ball in the global economy to attract inward investment," says an industry insider. "There are now many more seeking admission to the industrialised world and trying to legitimise themselves."

As well as representing foreign governments and organisations in London, British PR firms and lobbyists act as consultants to political parties in their own countries. Ian Greer Associates, the well-established Westminster lobbying firm, works in London for the

How PR firms lobby for foreign governments

Simon Brooke reports on the growing trend for agencies to take on political campaigning accounts

Gravitas is a not a word usually associated with public relations officers. Even the most enthusiastic PR would have to admit their trade is more popularly aligned with frothy press releases and petfood launches.

But a trend is making PR a much more serious business. More and more British-based consultancies are being assigned to represent a wide range of foreign governments and political parties campaigning in general elections.

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Greer: campaign advice

In the United States, representing a foreign interest is well-established aspect in PR and public affairs work. APCO Associates, which represents the Hong Kong and Polish Governments at its main Washington office, wants to develop similar work in London, a source confirms. However, experience in America also shows how PR consultancies can expose themselves to risks. During the Gulf War, Hill & Knowlton provided Kuwaiti expatriates to give evidence to congressional committees about atrocities by Iraqi troops in Kuwait in an attempt to persuade Middle America that it was right for the US to send troops to the aid of Kuwait. However effective the campaign, there were concerns about PR consultancies appearing to smother the truth.

The day-to-day work in servicing foreign groups and governments is similar to that provided for domestic commercial clients. According to one senior director at a multinational agency's London office: "It doesn't require a different mindset to work for a company. The best PR is about winnowing out the good stories and bringing them to journalists' attention."

Laura Sandys also provides introductions to target groups for many of her foreign clients. "We contact opinion-formers and those with business connections."

In London Hill & Knowlton's clients have included the Government of Brazil (generally looking to present a more positive image), Botswana (promoting its environmental initiatives), Angola (improving its postwar image) and the Czech Republic (establishing itself after its split from Slovakia). Hill & Knowlton has been working for the Government of Turkey — "a fascinating and challenging account," says Bickham, "because Turkey is a major democracy and a Western ally operating in a difficult part of the world, but which gets a much worse press than it deserves."

The relationship between a PR consultancy and a client which takes the form of a foreign government is, however, different from the relationship when that client is a commercial organisation. Bickham explains: "With commercial clients, you can quite often have an effect on policy; with foreign governments you are generally working with a policy on which you can have no influence at all. You also have to be particularly careful to remain absolutely accurate to the established political line."

Embassies are very often the cornerstone of this work, he finds. "Even if the contract is with the government in the national capital, there is no point in a PR agency rushing around and doing things other

Express seeks new middle ground



over. Meanwhile, there is a new spring in the step of the Express. It is running 32 pages of sport on Mondays, against 20 in the Mail, and was much quicker in realising the news potential of the Runcie biography. Hollick acknowledges the "tremendous success" of the Mail, but says it is getting long in the tooth and has a set of attitudes (anti-single mothers, anti-Europe) cast in tablets of stone. He thinks it will be difficult for the Mail to change as it confronts the newly positioned, free-thinking, more radical Express titles.

Since Hollick took the helm, the most interesting development at the Daily Express, which adored Margaret Thatcher, despised Neil Kinnock, always stuck the boot into Labour and which was so reliably Tory that it

and the story was continued at length on page two.

On the previous Friday both papers led on Labour and the unions. The Mail headline was "Union blunder rocks Labour". Labour, said the Mail, had been plunged into "turmoil" by reports that Blair was ready to sever links with the unions.

The spin was different in the Express, where Blair was portrayed as planning his biggest election gamble. "Labour to dump unions" was the main headline. There was no "turmoil" in the Express. Instead Blair, in the "greatest reform" in the party's history, was prepared to gamble on his most bitter showdown yet with his traditional rank-and-file.

At the past three elections, the three main Tory tabloids — The Sun, the Daily Mail and the Daily Express — seized every opportunity to dump on Labour and derided Michael Foot and Neil Kinnock. At a forum organised by The Times, Dillons and the publisher Fourth Estate last week, Blair said he hoped that the renouveau of Labour

Central Office leaks, has been the increasing fairness of its reporting of Tony Blair and the Labour Party. It was to the Daily Express that Tony Blair announced Labour's new policy on health: it was for the Daily Express that he did a readers' phone-in; and the Daily Express now reports Labour with a fairness that would have been astonishing a year ago, especially in a newspaper — according to MORI — which is second only to The Daily Telegraph in the proportion of readers — 51 per cent — who plan to vote Tory.

There were two examples on the rival front pages last week. On Tuesday the Mail led on the success of Peter Lilley's fraud hotline for dole cheats. The main story for the Express was "Blair: Labour is good for you — pledge on lower taxes and more jobs"

At a cost of at least £2 million to £3 million, more than 80 journalists have been fired from the Daily Express and Sunday Express. The journalists who remain are working on the most ambitious project in Fleet Street — the conversion of the two titles into a seven-day paper. Seven-day papers have never worked in Britain, although remnants of seven-day operations remain at the Independent and Telegraph titles, but experience teaches sceptics never to say never.

Sitting at the helm, the Editor-in-Chief Richard Addis has the backing of Fleet Street's newest media mogul, the committed Labour life peer, Clive Hollick, chief executive of the United News and Media Group. Hollick has shown his mettle in the City, where he forged the M&I group into a major player. Now he seeks to tread the much more dangerous territory of Fleet Street where all his predecessors at The Express since the death of Lord Beaverbrook have signally failed.

Addis and Hollick are carrying the battle to the one of the deadliest teams in Fleet Street — Lord Rothermere and Sir David English, chairman and chief executive of the Daily Mail and The Mail on Sunday. As the Daily Mail was quick to point out, sales of the Daily Express have fallen by 123,000 copies a day in the ten months since Addis, until then one of the

The phone in your pocket comes of age

Chris Partridge highlights the developments that will stretch the networks to all corners of the Earth

The mobile phone industry is growing up. After ten years of explosive change, a period of stability has begun: the mobile phone is now an ordinary tool of business.

The four competitors, Vodafone, Cellnet, Orange and One2One, all offer very broadly comparable services and coverage areas, and price structures are now relatively consistent. The move to the new digital networks is proceeding steadily.

But another round of dramatic technical changes is on the way. Some will be evolutionary, such as the introduction of a wide range of data services including mobile e-mail; others will be revolutionary, such as satellite mobile phones that will be usable anywhere on the surface of the Earth.

The current change is from the analogue Tacs system to the pan-European GSM digital system. Digital was very expensive when it was launched, with costly handsets and high call charges. The advent of the aggressive and innovative Orange changed that, and prices are now down to levels that reflect good value given the much improved signal quality of digital.

The main advantage for the business user is that GSM phones can be used over most of Europe, Australia and South Africa; this is both convenient and highly cost effective compared to using hotel phones. The big gap, however, is America, where a complete failure to sort out digital policy has resulted in several incompatible systems vying for supremacy.

The ability to roam between networks and over national boundaries will be further enhanced next year with the arrival of dual standard phones able to work on high frequency PCNs (Orange and One2One) and on lower fre-

quency GSM networks (Vodafone and Cellnet).

GSM's other major benefit for business users is the data system, allowing a notebook computer to be linked to the phone to send and receive e-mail, swap data with the office computer or even surf the Internet. At present, the hardware needed to connect to data is expensive. But soon, phones with built-in chips for linking to computers will appear.

Already the mobile networks are beginning to carry significant volumes of data and analysts expect data to account for about half the



NEC's G8: the company's first GSM mobile phone

traffic on the cellular networks by the end of the century.

For the cellular industry, going digital will make much more capacity available and analogue services are expected to wither rapidly, and close early in the next century.

The next step will be the satellite mobile phone. Currently, even the most advanced satellite phones, such as the new BT/Telenor Mobiq, are briefcase size and need to be pointed at the right sector of the sky. This will change with the launch of a new generation of low Earth orbit (Leo) satellites over the next few years.

Leo are constellations of small satellites moving rapidly over the Earth at heights of between 400 and 6,000 nautical miles. Although they will move rapidly across the sky, several will be visible at any one time so a line will always be available.

The big player here is Iridium, pushed by the communications hardware giant Motorola and an international consortium including Cable and Wireless in the UK. Iridium plans to launch 66 satellites at a cost of more than \$3 billion; they are due to become operational late in 1998, although many observers believe this is optimistic. Both handsets and calls are likely to be expensive, but the use of dual-standard phones that will search for an available cellular line before connecting to the satellite will help to keep running costs down.

Next in line is Globalstar, planning 48 birds (satellites) at a cost of \$1.6 billion, with commercial services starting some time after Iridium. Both handsets and calls will be cheaper. More services are projected, but the huge cost of a satellite constellation and its associated ground stations will limit the number to two or three at the most.

Satellite services will bring telephone lines to the ends of the Earth. This is not a prospect that appeals to the romantic explorer, or to the radio astronomers who do no longer be able to do any significant observation from Earth-bound radio telescopes — the new satellites will effectively blind them.

For the phone user, however, it will be the ultimate system — instant availability wherever you are. Mobile phones will also soon be more accessible on the ground: Jan Peters, new chief executive of One2One, plans to place its phones in supermarkets, DIY stores, even chemists.

The police take a dim view of drivers using a handset, says Andrew Emmerson



Caught in the act... police, themselves armed with pagers, are on the lookout for drivers who use cellphones at the wheel

The police take a dim view of drivers who think they can control a car while clapping a cellphone to their ear. You risk not only your own life but also those of other motorists. Yet the temptation can be strong: the phone rings, the road looks clear so your hand reaches for the phone resting on... where has it got to?

Not only is this dangerous, as motoring organisations and police forces agree, it is unnecessary. Low-cost car kits can turn almost any personal phone into a hands-free model. More sophisticated systems are also available.

Malcolm Hanson of the specialist company ORA, which supplies a third of all cellphone accessories sold in Britain, says: "The car kits on the market range from simple cradles that just hold the phone within reach to complete systems that power the phone, provide hands-free microphone, speech amplifier and loudspeaker, and also link up to a more powerful external aerial. The simple universal cradles are designed to fit all popular handsets, but if you want the full works with hands-free speech, it has to be tailored to your particular model. It will need specialist fitting, too, whereas the basic kits are a simple DIY job."

Choosing the right car kit is not difficult. You could stick to the brand with your phone's name on it, but you can easily pay over the odds. There are several specialist accessory

Holding the line on safety

firms supplying quality goods at lower prices. On the other hand, And most of the cheap, no-name ones in plain white boxes are highly suspect. Stick with quality makes that include informative user literature and are here to stay.

How much should you pay? Car kits are good value, but do not expect bargain-basement prices — you cannot put a price on safety. A phone that sells for £49 is heavily subsidised, but its accessories are not. The really basic hang-up holsters start from £20 and you could pay £800 for a system with voice-recognition that dials the number you command it to. Reckon on £300-plus for a fully hands-free kit (plus installation) but less than £100 for something that still gives you most useful functions. For instance, ORA now makes the TravelTalk, which combines a microphone, a speaker and a charging power cord in one. Also included in the £80 price is a clip-on lapel microphone and a phone holder, all of which can be transferred from one vehicle to another if required.

If you don't expect to make many calls on the move, a lower cost holster will keep the phone accessible and you could pull it in off the road when phoning. It's an even better investment if you expect to change cellphone because all popular brands will fit in the same cradle.

Mid-price range kits offer

the advantage of a power lead, which charges your phone's battery, and connection to an external antenna, which will improve reception. Though personal phones work quite well inside cars, the metal body shields some of the signal and an antenna on the roof or wing of the vehicle is much more efficient.

Whatever the price of going hands-free, the alternative could cost you dearly. Certain police forces are cracking down on drivers seen using holding cellphones. The M40 is being targeted and the penalties could be high. Rule 43 of the Highway Code warns drivers against using hand-held telephones or microphones while driving. And moving on to the hard shoulder to take a call is allowed only in dire emergency.

Although holding a mobile phone at the wheel is not in itself an offence, it could render you liable to prosecution for driving while not in proper control or without due care and attention — maximum fine £5,000. If that is not bad enough, you could also fall foul of government telecommunication rules.

Fully hands-free car kits need official certification, so look out for the green circle approval mark: it shows the kit has passed necessary technical tests. Remarkably, it's not illegal to sell unapproved equipment — but it is to use it.

Consider your insurance, too: mobile phones and accidents go together. An Institute of Insurance Brokers study of accidents suggests that drivers with a phone are 34 per cent more likely to have an accident.

So the cost of fitting a car kit looks a bargain. For less than £100, you can avoid the costly risk of a dangerous-driving case or — heaven forbid — causing a motorway pile-up.

Know the score with text service

Jane Bird on the growing use of phone-screens to relay data

Take a skiing holiday this winter and you might miss your favourite football team's big match. But carry a mobile phone and you could get the result displayed on its screen from a Swiss mountain top.

Alternatively, you could check the latest moves on the Stock Exchange from a Mediterranean beach, or you could get a statement of your bank balance in the Black Forest.

These are all examples of text and data services now becoming available on digital mobile phones. Most phones can send and receive text messages of 160 characters. You can tap out a quick note to a friend using a combination of the phone's numeric keys, or dial one of the growing range of information services. If your phone is not switched on when someone sends you a message, the network will keep trying to deliver it for 72 hours.

Vodafone began experimenting with football results during the Euro 96 matches, offering half and full-time scores of all games. The experiment proved so successful that it is now continuing the service for this season's Premiership.

The Co-operative Bank is leading the way with dial-up account details. Terry

Thomas, the bank's managing director, says: "Customers can find out instantly if a cheque has been cleared or if they can afford to pay for something."

Subscribers to London-based Market Data Centre can currently get the latest details on foreign exchange, futures, precious metals, and indices. The service is proving popular according to Jeremy Oates, Market Data's managing director. "We have found a hard core of users within the City, and a number of people who use the service occasionally."

Digital phones are increasingly being used to exchange messages with each other or to send e-mail and faxes to computers and fax machines. This short message service (SMS) is useful in places where mobile phones are banned, such as restaurants and hospitals. When the message is received, it gives a short beep or displays an icon.

Martin Rowlett, an executive at Martin Humblin Research agency, has become an enthusiastic user of SMS. He spends a great deal of time travelling in central Europe. "It's perfect for simple messages, cheaper than conversations and for sending quick thank-you faxes, for example."

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On the move and still talking

For those madcap people who travel round Australia on a camel or the world in a Mini, sail the oceans, and work in war zones or in the middle of a Formula One race-track, mobile phones are a must. They keep people in touch with support teams and emergency services. A mobile phone can provide voice communications or be connected to a laptop computer to send faxes, e-mail messages or link in to corporate databases. In developing countries, remote areas or where geography makes the cost of building a fixed telephonic network prohibitive, GSM mobile phones are the only practical and reliable way international travellers can do business. Ovum, the telecoms analyst, estimates that in Europe alone about 30 million people are convinced of the value of a mobile and this number will grow at a rate of 60 per cent each year.

Combining his love of Minis with raising money for the Imper-

Round-the-world yachtsmen or even those driving to Australia can still keep in touch with a mobile phone, says Priscilla Awde

ial Cancer Research Fund, Duncan Mortimer and his wife Yawadze drove 12,000 miles round the world in their rebuilt 18-year-old car. "The first thing I packed was my Nokia 2110 mobile which I linked up with a laptop and modem," he said. "Throughout the five-month trip we had clear, instant communications with home and we were only a phone call away from spare parts. Apart from being cut off without warning by Vodafone because of an unpaid bill which finally totalled £800 and which we are still paying off, we had no problems."

John Treuthardt, a Formula One journalist, is able to bypass the £150 charge for a fixed phone link at Grand Prix sites to file stories around the world. Using the Nokia 2110 with a cellular data card gives him voice and data access to 40

networks worldwide. "Invaluable for the travelling business community, mobiles provide complete independence," he said. "I can write and file stories from car parks or harbour fronts without waiting for an office to open."

Dealing with medical emergencies on the racetrack can be a communications nightmare, but course doctors equipped with a mobile phone can ring hospitals from an ambulance to find the best care for injured drivers.

Computeraid recently sponsored two teams of six amateur drivers in the 3,000-mile Cape to Cape Challenge from Norway to the southern tip of Spain. Raising money for leukaemia research, the two cars used Motorola GSM phones to

identify trouble spots and ferry delays. Talking to each other throughout the 64-hour journey, they also kept up morale and were able to phone in details of their progress.

Organisers of the BT Global Challenge Round the World Yacht Race met a challenge of their own when they had to ensure reliable communications between the 14 participating yachts and their families and home bases. Billed as one of the toughest races because it circumnavigates the world against the prevailing winds and tides, the yachts will take ten months to travel 30,000 miles. Each of the skippers will use a Motorola GSM mobile to phone and send data back to the UK from ports as far away as Sydney and Cape Town.

Spending about 330 days a year and at least seven hours a day on

his bicycle means Max Sciandri, Britain's Olympic cyclist, is never in one place for long. He uses his mobile system to send performance and health data back to the team doctor after each race. "I download my heart rate data back to the doctor using a Motorola phone teamed with a PC card which allows me to send and receive e-mail, faxes and files via a laptop," he said. "From the information I send, he can monitor my rate of recovery and fitness levels and we can develop my training programme. I can also talk strategy with other team members wherever they are."

Some mobile phones do not get such gentle treatment — as EAE, the Aberdeen supplier, can testify. "We have had handsets returned with bullet holes when used by charities in Bosnia," said John Loveday of EAE. "We also supply the offshore oil rigs where, provided they aren't further than 150 miles away, mobiles are a cheaper way of keeping in touch with land."



Ship to shore: Motorola yacht skipper Mark Lodge makes contact

Handsets and airtime are getting cheaper and facilities are improving. Clare Johnston reports

Mobile phones are bulky, costly, and can be intrusive. They may be difficult to operate and, according to the Consumers' Association in a survey published last February, 12 per cent need repairs for apparently no reason within a year. Some people simply wouldn't be seen with one.

But recent developments are changing all that. Handsets can cost a matter of pounds (or even come free with airtime) and, with improved quality and slashed airtime prices, sales are increasing by about 50 per cent each year.

Since 1992, the UK penetration level has risen from 2 per cent to today's 10 per cent. According to Adam Zoldan, industry analyst for personal communications at Dataquest Europe, by 2000 there will be an estimated 16 million UK mobile phone users.

Andrew Press, commercial manager at NEC, agreed that the market has changed beyond belief. "The yuppie thing about having a mobile is old hat," he said. "Mobile phones are now seen simply as a communications tool."

The increasing proportion of consumer users has forced manufacturers to reconsider handset design. Consumers typically emphasise cost and battery life. "Eight to ten hours of battery standby time, which means you have to recharge every day, is no longer accept-

Turning the yuppie toy into a necessity

able," said Mr Zoldan. "Now batteries last for 100-200 hours — a whole week." The Nokia 1610 digital phone provides up to seven hours of airtime and 200 hours of standby time — far longer than anything else on the market.

Ease of use is also important. "This doesn't mean that the feature set has to be less sophisticated," Mr Zoldan said. "For example, the menu might be on just one level, rather than having several sub levels."

Motorola offers "Personality" software on many handsets, allowing you to build an individual menu of functions, while Sony's CMD-Z1 has a "jog-dial", allowing the user to scan, select and activate the desired function using just one finger, instead of pushing various buttons.

Displays have become bigger and clearer. A few years ago, you had to plough through the instruction book; now, the phone itself will prompt you.

If you're unwilling to take

burden, the Motorola StarTac is the smallest and lightest handset available. In size, it is easy competition for traditional pagers, but at nearly £1,000, its cost is prohibitive for all but the most well-heeled.

Motorola claims that, because StarTac is so attractive, many users will wear it as a fashion item on a belt, in a top pocket or even pendant-style.

According to Mr Zoldan, the

StarTac (which is currently only analogue) is for the image-conscious sector of the market — the people who carried around the "big bricks" of the 1980s. "You'd be crazy to spend that amount of money on the StarTac," he said, "unless you specifically wanted the smallest phone around." He added: "The market isn't analogue any more and for around the same price, you could buy the Nokia 9000 Communicator, which is possibly the most sophisticated piece of technology anyone has introduced."

Novelty features are still being introduced and are often underused or patented of little use. Take the StarTac's call delay, which programmes the dialler to wait up to 99 minutes before calling a number. These gimmicks give an impression of extra value but are often enjoyed only by techno-aware teenagers. Image-conscious accessories are also on the increase, ranging from jazzy cases to self-adhesive covers.

'By the year 2000 there will be an estimated 16 million mobile users in the UK'

Business users have traditionally formed the majority of the market and, for them, accessories offer increased convenience in the form of modems for data, e-mail and faxing.

The boundaries of mobile phone use are breaking down. But what happens when everyone who wants a cell phone has bought one and they are as common as remote-controlled televisions?

"Universal personal telecommunications" represents the next step, though it is uncertain yet what form it will take. Ericsson is testing a handset which acts as a cordless phone in the office or home, then switches to the GSM network when you're out and about. With just one number, it can be used on the fixed or cellular networks, but it will probably not be available until 1997. Phones which switch between digital networks are also on the cards.

However, whether we will need the fixed network at all is another matter. Mobile phones, unlike fixed phones, can be used anywhere and price is dropping all the time.

Other innovations include dual-mode handsets that can be switched between cellular and satellite systems, which mean that by 2000 users will be confident of service anywhere worldwide, regardless of roaming agreements, holes in coverage or system incompatibilities.

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THE TIMES

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BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 25 1996

George Walker's £6m award puts Brent Walker in peril



Walker: delighted by ruling

BY JON ASHWORTH
AND GEORGE SYVELL

BRENT WALKER, the ailing leisure group, faced the threat of collapse last night, after a judge in France granted an award for more than £6 million in favour of George Walker, the company's founder. Brent Walker immediately appealed against the decision, which, if upheld, could consign one of the last symbols of 1980s expansionism to the corporate scrapheap.

Bankers to Brent Walker had previously threatened to place the company in receivership if the French action went in Mr Walker's

favour. Michael Coleman of Harknays, Mr Walker's solicitor, might also seek a winding-up order on the company, although any such action is frozen pending an appeal. Mr Coleman expects an appeal to be heard within three to six months.

The court outcome poses a threat to the planned disposal of the Pubmaster pubs chain, on the market at £200 million. It could also have a bearing on any future sale of William Hill, the betting chain, which Brent Walker bought from Grand Metropolitan for £685 million in 1989.

The French action relates to events in 1989, when Holt Freres, a Walker family trust, provided a loan of £20

million towards various French transactions. Half the sum was repaid, leaving Brent Walker with £10.2 million to repay — an amount that Mr Walker alleges was recorded as such in the company's accounts for four consecutive years. With interest, the amount has risen to £18 million.

Pursuit of the funds was suspended until the conclusion of court proceedings against Mr Walker, who was ousted as chairman and chief executive of Brent Walker in 1991. He was cleared of theft and false accounting, and subsequently discharged from bankruptcy. Proceedings were begun in June 1995 after negotiations broke down. Brent Walker says that it was

agreed orally that the loan would be offset against other liabilities.

Mr Coleman said that the judge seemed to have allowed for some of the money to be offset, resulting in a judgment in favour of Holt Freres in the sum of about £6.25 million, including interest. Mr Walker, who is pursuing interests in television racing in Russia, said that he was "delighted" with the French ruling, adding: "It's a clear case that they owed the money."

Brent Walker said that the judgment was unenforceable pending appeal. Brent Walker remains in a precarious financial position, and last week reported losses before and after tax of £51.6 million in the half year to June

30. Bank borrowings stood at £1.484 million at June 30, and net liabilities had risen to £1.186 million.

Analysts believe that the group can hope to raise only about £700 million from disposals. William Hill has been for sale since 1991, when Brent Walker was rescued by its bankers, led by Standard Chartered, in a £1.6 billion operation. Bass is understood to have been in talks earlier this year, but balked at the £500 million price.

Analysts expect the pubs business to fetch about £200 million. Brighton Marina was recently sold to a Sussex company for £9 million.

Brent Walker shares closed unchanged at 24p.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FT-SE 100	3910.5	(-9.2)
Yield	3.59%	
FT-SE All share	1823.88	(-4.14)
Nikkei	2171.99	(+59.75)
New York		
Dow Jones	5888.94	(-4.80)*
S&P Composite	686.61	(+0.13)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	5 1/8%	(5 1/8%)
Long Bond	8 1/8%	(8 1/8%)
Yield	7.02%	(7.02%)

LONDON MONEY

3-month interbank	5 1/8%	(5 1/8%)
Libor long bill	8 1/8%	(8 1/8%)
future (Dec)	107 1/2	(107 1/2)

STERLING

New York	1.5583*	(1.5584)
London		
DM	1.5580	(1.5589)
FF	2.3576	(2.3582)
DM	7.9701	(7.9747)
SF	1.9275	(1.9229)
Yen	171.02	(171.01)
% index	86.1	(86.1)

London		
DM	1.6130*	(1.6128)
FF	1.1727*	(1.1725)
SF	1.2375*	(1.2380)
Yen	108.80*	(108.83)
% index	87.0	(87.0)

Tokyo close Yen	108.68	
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15-day (Dec)	\$22.15	(\$21.75)
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London close	\$382.25	(\$381.15)
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* denotes midday trading price		
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UK and US interest rates stay on hold

BY JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE US Federal Reserve yesterday left American interest rates unchanged in a decision which came as a great relief to the Clinton Administration in the run-up to the Presidential election in November. UK interest rates were also left unchanged.

The Federal Open Market Committee met yesterday and opted to leave the key Federal Funds rate unchanged at 5.25 per cent. There had been intense speculation about whether the American central bank would raise rates to slow down the economy and head off inflationary pressures.

A poll conducted by Reuters before the meeting found that 31 of 55 economists expected the Fed to raise rates. The news that there was to be no change boosted the Dow Jones industrial average by 30 points but the key index then settled back for only modest gains. The Treasury bond market reacted favourably, pushing the benchmark 30-year up by more than a half point and the yield down below the key 7 per cent level.

Before the FOMC meeting President Clinton told reporters that he was very pleased that America was enjoying strong growth with no sign of inflation. Other Administration officials have implicitly expressed their opposition to higher rates by emphasising evidence that inflationary pressures remain low.

The Fed was faced with conflicting evidence on the economy. Growth in the second quarter was strong, at 4.8 per cent, but the third quarter has already seen signs of slowing. On the prices side, there has been some evidence of rising wages pressures but other inflation indicators have remained very low.

In Britain, Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, also resisted pressure for higher rates. Despite the Bank of England's stated desire to see monetary policy tightened, there was no sign of a rate change yesterday after the monetary meeting on Monday afternoon.

Both Bank and Treasury teams would have seen yesterday's figures for growth and

the current account in the second quarter which showed a stronger economy so far this year than previously thought.

Second-quarter gross domestic product increased by a revised 0.5 per cent instead of the 0.4 per cent reported previously and first-quarter growth was revised up significantly to 0.6 per cent from 0.4 per cent.

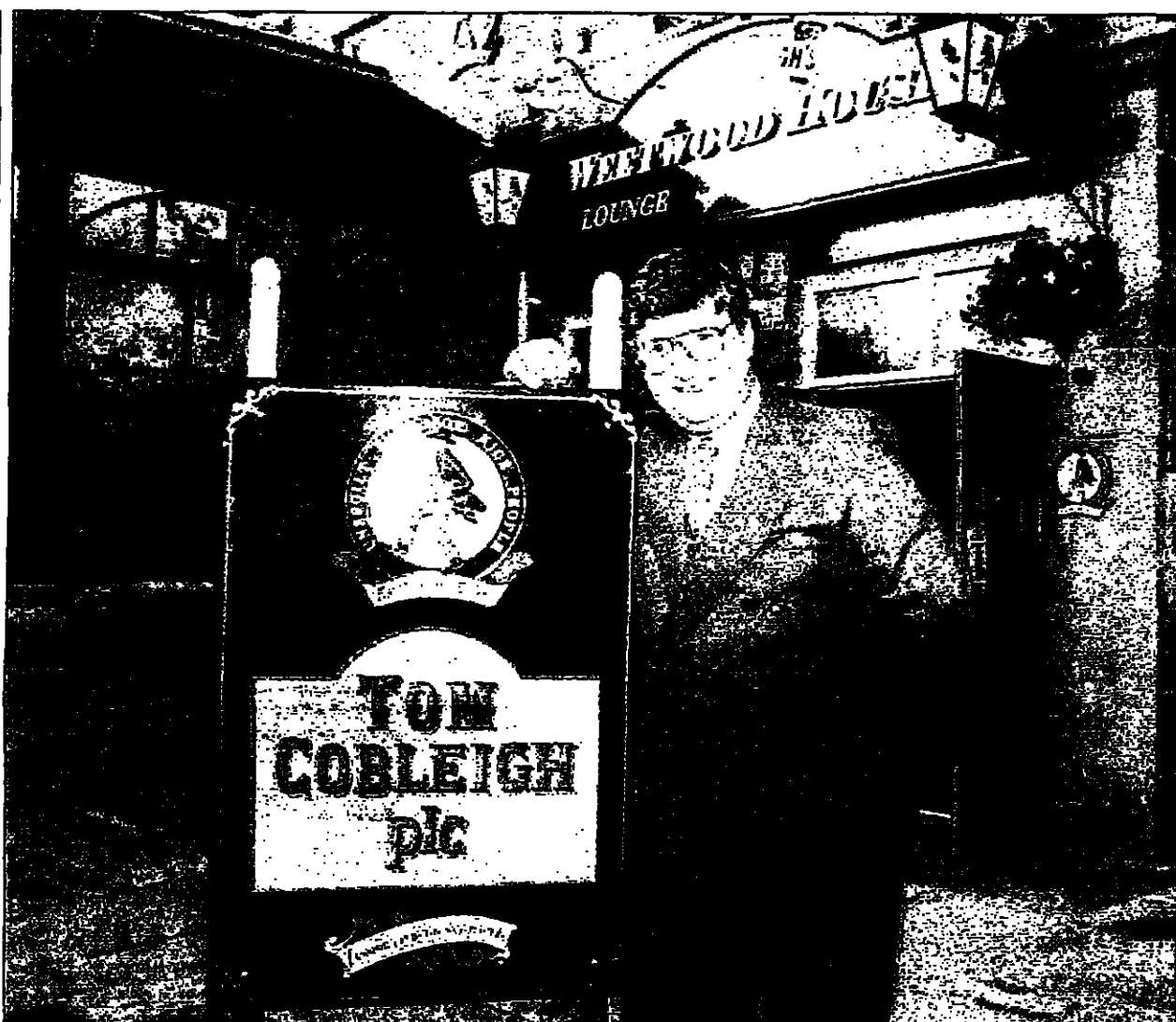
Richard Jeffrey, chief economist at the Charterhouse Group, said: "These figures mean that interest rates shouldn't have come down earlier this year and should have been raised this week."

However, there is also a camp in the City which argues that rates should be left on hold. Simon Briscoe of Nikko Securities said: "The data leave the impression of an economy that neither needs policy easing nor would be able to cope with policy tightening — it is surely further evidence that policy is on hold."

There were upward revisions to consumer demand, services and construction which support a hawkish view on rates. However, supporting the doves was confirmation of stagnant industrial production, up only 0.1 per cent quarter on quarter, and the fact that the GDP deflator, a key inflation indicator, stood at only 1.7 per cent.

The British Retail Consortium acknowledged that there was a strengthening trend in consumer spending but said that this did not herald the start of an inflationary consumer boom. Andrew Sentance, the BRC's chief economic adviser, said that the case for a rise in interest rates was weak. He said: "There are still many negative influences on the consumer, including job insecurity, negative equity and memories of falling house prices in the recession."

Detailed figures for Britain's balance of payments performance in the second quarter were also released yesterday. They showed that the current account moved surprisingly into the black. There was a surplus of £457 million compared with a deficit of £786 million in the first quarter, largely because of bumper invisible earnings, according to the Office for National Statistics.



Derek Mapp, the managing director, will receive just over £6.4 million for his 6.7 per cent stake in Tom Cobleigh

Rank pays £95m for Tom Cobleigh

BY PAUL DURMAN

THE Rank Organisation, owner of Butlin's and the Hard Rock cafes, is paying £95.6 million for Tom Cobleigh, the pub group — equivalent to more than £1.5 million for each of the company's 61 pubs.

Rank intends to accelerate the growth of Tom Cobleigh, already expanding rapidly into Lancashire and the North East, by introducing pub restaurants into its cinema complexes and multi-leisure centres.

Tom Cobleigh's attraction for Rank lies in the high proportion of food sales, which represent roughly half total revenues in its newer and larger pubs. Andrew Tearn, Rank's chief executive, said Rank lacks exposure to the eating-out market.

The Rank deal will make millions of Tom Cobleigh's four executive directors: Derek Mapp, Ken Pratt, David Bond and Maggie Pearson. Mr Mapp, managing director, will receive just over £6.4 million for his 6.7 per cent stake. Mrs Pearson will make £1.8 million, Mr Pratt £1.5 million and Mr Bond £1.3 million. All four have agreed to stay on to

develop the business after Rank offered them three-year incentive packages. A former publican, Mr Mapp, 46, started trading from a single pub in January 1992 after Mansfield Brewery made him redundant. By the time the company reached the stock market last November, it was valued at £60 million. The company's slogan is "Unspoilt pubs for nice people".

Rank, which is offering cash of 240p a share, has secured irrevocable undertakings to accept the offer from Tom Cobleigh's directors and from its largest shareholder, European Acquisition Capital, the venture capital firm that provided the company's initial finance. Together, these shareholders own 61.5 per cent of the company.

It was EAC, owned by SE Banken of Sweden, that called time on Tom Cobleigh's short stock-market life when it put its 50 per cent stake up for sale. The company will receive £47.8 million for its stake, more than 4½ times the £10.3 million it invested.

Pubs to riches, page 29

AT&T warning shocks market

FROM RICHARD THOMSON IN NEW YORK

AT&T, the America telecoms group, shocked Wall Street yesterday with a warning that profits for the rest of the year would be substantially below expectations.

Robert Allen, chairman, said that competitive pressures and investments in areas such as on-line and wireless capabilities meant that results in the third quarter would be about 10 per cent below Wall Street's estimates of 92 cents a share. Fourth-quarter results would also fall short of current expectations of 89 cents a share. Mr Allen said: "We currently believe that competitive pressures will continue for the remainder of the year, and we are intensifying our marketing efforts."

After the announcement AT&T shares fell 8 per cent before recovering to trade

\$3.25 lower at \$54. The profit warning by AT&T, often regarded as bellwether of US industry, is likely to undermine the stock market's belief that corporate profits were improving in the second half of the year.

Mr Allen said the company's proposed split into three distinct businesses was proceeding as expected. AT&T, the traditional long distance telephone services company, has filed to provide local phone services in all 50 states after a change in rules governing the industry. The new rules allow local and long distance operators to invade each other's markets. AT&T has already seen the creation of powerful alliances among new competitors which will challenge its dominance of the long distance market.

UBS fined over concealed £9m losses

BY ROBERT MILLER

UBS, the merchant bank, has been fined £20,000 by a City watchdog after two traders concealed paper losses of more than £9 million on the London derivatives markets.

The Securities and Futures Authority (SFA), the regulator for brokers and futures dealers, said yesterday that Mark Larkin, 37, a US citizen who formerly worked at Salomon Brothers and Credit Suisse First Boston, had

reprimanded, fined £20,000 and required to pay costs of £5,000.

Mr Larkin, who was head of convertibles and warrants trading at UBS, which also had to pay costs of £8,000, was expelled from the SFA's register of managers. He was sacked in November 1994, when the irregularities were discovered by the Swiss bank, which reported its findings to the SFA.

The SFA said that between July and October 1994 Mr Larkin, who is reputed to have earned a £500,000 bonus in 1992, disclosed irregularities

derivatives markets and concealed those trades by failing to book them on execution and then "warehousing" the trades with his French counterpart, Mr Larkin, who accepted that he breached City rules relating to "high standards of integrity and fair dealing", had a loss on his positions of £442,586.

Mr Keen, 29, who also left UBS in November 1994 and subsequently worked for three months at Tradition Bond Brokers, breached SFA rules in overvaluing the UBS holdings. It is understood that after a highly success-

traders were caught out by the bond market crash early in 1994. The secret trades were made in a bid to retrieve loss-making positions but were discovered by UBS compliance officers. A UBS spokesman said: "We regret the incident, but it was more than two years ago and remedial action was taken immediately."

In June, Credit Suisse, a rival Swiss bank, was fined £38,000 by Imro, the watchdog for fund managers, and ordered to pay compensation of £36,000 to nearly 900 investors after a

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STOCK MARKET



OLIVER AUGUST

Shares see red again on US interest rate fears

AFTER nearly falling through the 3,900 level, the FT-SE 100 index closed at 3,910.5, down 9.2 points. The index rose in the morning on news that UK interest rates would be unchanged but soon fell as a US rate rise became dominant. The index had drifted down 20 points even before Wall Street had opened.

Volume was low throughout the day as traders awaited news from the US central bank. But there was some UK economic data. A surprise balance of payments surplus for the second quarter, coupled with revised growth figures for the economy all spelt bad news for anyone hoping for another interest rate cut before the general election.

There is still a strong faction of dealers who believe the FT-SE 100 is on track to breach the 4,000 mark. One said: "We just need to get these first rate decisions out of the way first."

The banking sector was again hardest hit by rate rise fears. Abbey National fell from 613½p to 604p, Barclays was down 7p at 932½p, HSBC dropped to 1180p from 1203p. NatWest eased from 667p to 661½p and Standard Chartered (unlisted) 13½p to 705p. A feeling is spreading among traders that the sector is looking slightly overvalued. Profit-taking has certainly accelerated the downward trend.

Among the biggest individual losers Laura Ashley fell 22p at 193½p on below-expectation interim profits. Incheape closed 5½p lower at 287p as sentiments remained mixed on plans to sell Bain Hogg, and Rank dropped 8½p to 430½p after finally revealing its Tom Cobligh £90 million cash bid. But Tom Cobligh was up 1½p at 236p and Yates Brothers Wine Lodges closed at 366p, up 3p.

Carlton Communications bucked the market trend for a second day running, adding 16½p to 489p. Meetings between the company and analysts sparked interest in the shares. One analyst said: "We are seeing better indications of advertising for the final quarter of the year and MediaWeek last week was reporting that October was looking quite strong." There was no news on a possible tie-up between CanWest and HTV which would effectively block any bid by Carlton.

The water sector was another pocket of interest.



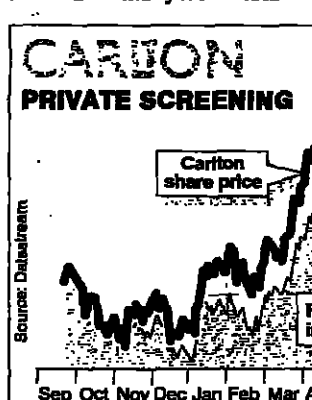
Sitting pretty: Cornwell Parker chief executive James Moore, left, and Martin Jourdan saw a huge share rise

Ofwat, the industry regulator, said yesterday that it wanted companies to improve accounting procedures through more competitive tendering and reporting on indirect transactions with associates. Ian Byatt, head of Ofwat, said he had "some concerns about a situation where trade with associates is a high proportion of the turnover." These com-

Predictably, business has not been very good in Germany, which makes up half of Europe's construction market and 46 per cent of Redland's earnings. A fall in pre-tax profits to £86.13 million, from £156 million, is expected. The dividend per share is expected to remain at 5.5 pence. Analysts said the market will be looking out for any comments

BP has opened its first Russian service station in Moscow. The complex, which offers everything from car parts to groceries, is a joint development with McDonald's, which has built a drive-in restaurant into the site. If successful, more openings will follow in 1997. Shares fell ½p to 634p.

Buildings materials analysts are preparing for Thursday's Redland half-year results.



Source: Datastream

as the disputes' cost was set at £3.5 million.

Cornwell Parker, the furniture and furnishings fabric company where Martin Jourdan is chairman, saw a huge increase from 175p to 240p on plans to franchise its A shares.

Shareholders in Regent Inns, the pub operator, continued to toast the success of their company after it announced a 57 per cent increase in their annual dividend on Monday. Shares rose 3p from 234½p.

Shares in Prism Rail also climbed, up 5p to 435p, after news that it is one of the parties that has been short-listed and invited to submit a final tender for the franchise to operate Merseyside Electric. Blue Circle fell from 385p to 383½p on news of the company's new property joint venture with Australia's Lend Lease. British Steel was down 3½p at 185p after poor first-half figures from Unisior.

An AT&T profits warning sent shares in BT 2p lower to 367½p, and Cable & Wireless, down ½p at 455p.

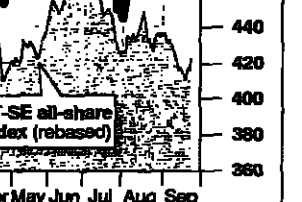
One of the few rallies took place in the supermarket sector where Tesco was up 2p at 303p, also helped by a Kleinwort Benson "buy" recommendation. Safeway did even better, closing at 331p, up 6½p, on share buy-back speculation.

BP rose ½p to 635½p after options support and Hodder Headline was pushed up 5p to 211p by an upbeat statement. United News & Media rallied 4p to 696½p but Zeneca retreated 13p to 154p in the absence of bid moves.

GIIT-EDGED: Nothing could disturb traders who were desperately awaiting the outcome of the FOMC meeting in Washington on US interest rates. One trader said: "There was such little business going on. I think a bunch of futures traders started the rumour."

World bond markets were hooked on news from Washington. UK December gilt futures finished unchanged at £107½ after UK interest rates where left untouched.

NEW YORK: Shares on Wall Street steadied in late morning trading as investors eagerly awaited news from the Fed's policy meeting on interest rates. At midday the Dow Jones industrial average was modestly down 4.80 points at 5,889.94.



Source: Datastream

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):	
Dow Jones	5889.94 (-4.80)
S&P Composite	686.61 (-0.13)
Tokyo:	
Nikkei Average	21171.99 (+56.75)
Hong Kong:	
Hang Seng	11546.70 (-75.43)
Amsterdam:	
EOE index	563.97 (-2.30)
Sydney:	
ASX	2228.17 (+0.5)
Frankfurt:	
DAX	2638.45 (+11.41)
Singapore:	
Strait	2160.27 (+3.48)
Brussels:	
General	9672.27 (-0.05)
Paris:	
CAC-40	2081.50 (+14.41)
Zurich:	
SKA Gen	766.00 (+2.50)
London:	
FT 100	2801.7 (-5.3)
FT 100	3010.5 (-9.2)
FT-SE Mid 250	4388.2 (+6.4)
FT-SE 100	3910.5 (-9.2)
FT-SE 100	1948.20 (+1.80)
FT A-Share	1929.88 (-4.14)
FT Non Financials	2032.7 (-3.38)
FT Financials	1113.13 (+0.02)
FT Govt Sec	93.18 (+0.03)
Bulgaria	37356
SEAG Volume	636.00
USM (Datastream)	204.26 (+0.44)
USM (Datastream)	1.5900 (+0.01)
German Mark	2.3574 (+0.0001)
Exchange Index	86.2 (+0.1)
Bank of England official close (MPS)	5.50
ESDR	1.0751
RPI	153.1 Aug (2.1%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX	152.8 Aug (2.8%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Amer Opps U Ln	100
Barclay Bank	62
Cruden Bay	85
Dairy Crest Group	185
Dentmaster Hldgs	4
Electronic Retail	241
Farwood	25
FT Chl Crd Grd	2584
Grosvener Land	14
Hambros Smr Asm	65
Harstone 8% Cm	125
Hoare Govett 1000 C	97
Life Numbers	12
Life Numbers Ws	5
Penberstone Wns	70
Regent King Chl	2728
Schrod Emg Cou Ws	39
Schrod Emg Countr	93
Selector	68

RIGHTS ISSUES

BICC n/p (270)	23
Davis Fin ULS n/p	44

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:	
Cortec	237p (+15p)
Mickelthorpe	551p (+22p)
Carlton Comm	489p (+18p)
Altria	443p (+12p)
Scotia	680p (+12p)
Bodycorp	630p (+15p)
Legal & Gen	785p (+15p)
Prudential	450p (+8p)
FALLS:	
Ashley (Laura)	193p (-22p)
Fil	110p (-11p)
Vero Gp	201p (-12p)
Rolls & Nolan	377p (-10p)
Fuller Sm K	447p (-10p)
Granada	870p (-17p)
Pizzagroup	483p (-5p)
Stand Chart	705p (-13p)
Henlys	561p (-10p)
Eurochem	532p (-9p)
Matthew Clark	343p (-6p)
MAID	283p (-8p)
Abbey Natl	804p (-9p)
Diagne Gp	597p (-15p)

Closing Prices Page 31

TEMPUS

Back to the black stuff

THE rebuilding of Tarmac into an aggregates-based operation is proceeding better than expected, with more cost savings coming out of the integration of Wimpey's business than first expected.

But it is too early to conduct a full survey of the company because it is still only possible to look at the foundations. The new-look Tarmac operates in a tough market, with European construction in the doldrums. Britain, in particular, offers slim pickings for heavy building materials after large cuts in road building programmes. The Private Finance Initiative has proved a further complication, with projects suffering from longer than anticipated delays.

Although it was sensible for Wimpey and Tarmac to swap their housebuilding and aggregates operations, the move has left

Tarmac so highly geared that there are definite twitches in the City. The company has pledged to bring down the current 60 per cent gearing to between 30 and 40 per cent within a couple of years. But urgency is required in the meantime, because the balance sheet because the underlying profits show only a flicker of strength, aided in some part by improving fortunes in the US. Excluding the £65 million restructuring charge, pre-tax profits stood at £6.7 million, a weak figure against the £29.1 million of last year.

Integration of the Wimpey business is expected to deliver annual cost savings of more than £35 million, but the full benefits will take at least six months to start showing and will take longer in construction. Tarmac's transition may not be achieved overnight, but it must be built to endure.

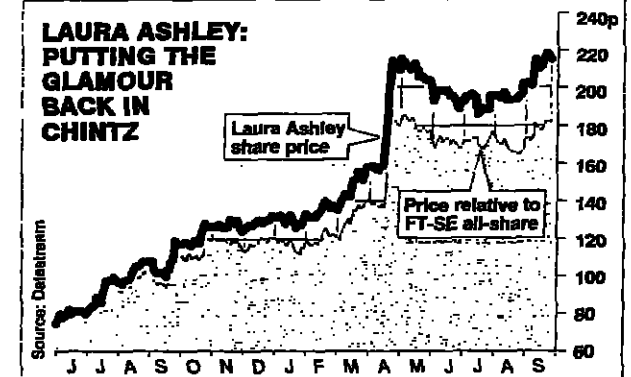
Laura Ashley

THE quiet revolution at Laura Ashley is now almost complete. Ann Iverson has pulled off the seemingly impossible task of revamping without upsetting traditional customers.

After fewer than two years at the helm, she has dragged the company from a time-trance to face the brutal realities of retailing.

The first thing to go was the tail-wag-dog relationship with its manufacturing plant, where the retailer was under pressure to order what best suited the factory.

Next, she forced the company to swallow its pride and reduce the cost of slow moving stock after seven weeks - rather than packing it away and bringing it out in time for the sales season. It has now relieved itself of the mountain of unused stock.



Source: Datastream

Queens Moat

QUEENS Moat Houses, the walking dead of the hotel industry, is starting to look like an interesting punt. Operating profits are on the rise, debt is coming down, albeit slowly, and it may get a fair price for the 27 British properties put up for auction.

The upswing in the UK hotels cycle and zealous cost cutting have removed Queens Moat from the critical list. The cycle has another one or two years to run, but Queens Moat has relatively little exposure to the buoyant London market, where room yields have climbed fastest.

Queens Moat still needs a turnaround in Europe in general and Germany in particular. Its German portfolio accounts for almost one third of its business. There are signs that the German economy has bottomed out. Second-quarter GDP growth was 1.5 per cent, compared with a drop of 0.5 per cent in the first quarter. Although

the country is burdened with high unemployment, economists think the worst is over.

At 18p a share, investors appear to have little to lose and much to gain if the German economy picks up momentum. Even better, Queens Moat may become a takeover target. But those looking for a quick rise will be disappointed. Patience is a requirement.

Sidlaw Group

DRASTIC action was required to safeguard Sidlaw's long-term future. With the appointment of John Durston, as chief executive, whose expertise lies in the packaging industry, it was inevitable that oil services, Sidlaw's other business, would be sold.

The £17 million surplus from the sale will bring urgently needed funds to beef up a balance sheet and avert yet another rights issue. On completion Sidlaw will have a small cash balance. Sidlaw shares rose 1½p to

121½p in response, against a 1996 low of 84p. But investors should still be cautious about the company's long-term prospects. The packaging business being retained is in poor shape.

Oil services, principally comprising the ASCO subsidiary, is highly regarded in the industry and has valuable long-term contracts with a number of oil companies. True, earnings have been relatively static in the past three years but it has remained in profit and its fortunes will mirror those of the North Sea oil industry.

By contrast packaging has struggled and the company concedes that many problem areas exist within the business. It is open to question whether Sidlaw can generate enough cash to restore growth in the division from existing resources. Significantly, Colin Manderson is quitting as chief operating officer of the packaging division to lead the management buy-in of oil services.

COMMODITIES

LIFFE

Sep	900-955	Dec	1000-1050
Oct	985-1040	Mar	1070-1080
Nov	1000-1010	Jun	1080-1090
Dec	1010-1020	Jul	1090-1100
Jan	1100-1110	Aug	1110-1120
Feb	1120-1130	Sep	1130-1140
Mar	1140-1150	Oct	1150-1160
Apr	1160-1170	Nov	1170-1180
May	1180-1190	Dec	1190-1200
Jun	1200-1210	Jan	1210-1220
Jul	1220-1230	Feb	1230-1240
Aug	1240-1250	Mar	1250-1260
Sep	1260-1270	Oct	1270-1280
Nov	1280-1290	Dec	1290-1300
Jan	1300-1310	Feb	1310-1320
Mar	1320-1330	Apr	1330-1340
May	1340-1350	Jun	1350-1360
Jul	1360-1370	Aug	1370-1380
Sep	1380-1390	Oct	1390-1400
Nov	1400-1410	Dec	1410-1420
Jan	1420-1430	Feb	1430-1440
Mar	1440-1450	Apr	1450-1460
May	1460-1470	Jun	1470-1480
Jul	1480-1490	Aug	1490-1500
Sep	1500-1510	Oct	1510-1520
Nov	1520-1530	Dec	1530-1540
Jan	1540-1550	Feb	1550-1560
Mar	1560-1570	Apr	1570-1580
May	1580-1590	Jun	1590-1600
Jul	1600-1610	Aug	1610-1620
Sep	1620-1630	Oct	1630-1640
Nov	1640-1650	Dec	1650-1660
Jan	1660-1670	Feb	1670-1680
Mar	1680-1690	Apr	1690-1700
May	1700-1710	Jun	1710-1720
Jul	1720-1730	Aug	1730-1740
Sep	1740-1750	Oct	1750-1760
Nov	1760-1770	Dec	1770-1780
Jan	1780-1790	Feb	1790-1800
Mar	1800-1810	Apr	1810-1820
May	1820-1830	Jun	1830-1840
Jul	1840-1850	Aug	1850-1860
Sep	1860-1870	Oct	1870-1880
Nov	1880-1890	Dec	1890-1900
Jan	1900-1910	Feb	1910-1920
Mar	1920-1930	Apr	1930-1940
May	1940-1950	Jun	1950-1960
Jul	1960-1970	Aug	1970-1980
Sep	1980-1990	Oct	1990-2000
Nov	2000-2010	Dec	2010-2020
Jan	2020-2030	Feb	2030-2040
Mar	2040-2050	Apr	2050-2060
May	2060-2070	Jun	2070-2080
Jul	2080-2090	Aug	2090-2100
Sep	2100-2110	Oct	2110-2120
Nov	2120-2130	Dec	2130-2140
Jan	2140-2150	Feb	2150-2160
Mar	2160-2170	Apr	2170-2180
May	2180-2190	Jun	2190-2200
Jul	2200-2210	Aug	2210-2220
Sep	2220-2230	Oct	2230-2240
Nov	2240-2250	Dec	2250-2260
Jan	2260-2270	Feb	2270-2280
Mar	2280-2290	Apr	2290-2300
May	2300-2310	Jun	2310-2320
Jul	2320-2330	Aug	2330-2340
Sep	2340-2350	Oct	2350-2360
Nov	2360-2370	Dec	2370-2380
Jan	2380-2390	Feb	2390-2400
Mar	2400-2410	Apr	2410-2420
May	2420-2430	Jun	2430-2440
Jul	2440-2450	Aug	2450-2460
Sep	2460-2470	Oct	2470-2480
Nov	2480-2490	Dec	2490-2500
Jan	2500-2510	Feb	2510-2520
Mar	2520-2530	Apr	2530-2540
May	2540-2550	Jun	2550-2560
Jul	2560-2570	Aug	2570-2580
Sep	2580-2590	Oct	2590-2600
Nov	2600-2610	Dec	2610-2620
Jan	2620-2630	Feb	2630-2640
Mar	2640-2650	Apr	2650-2660
May	2660-2670	Jun	2670-2680
Jul	2680-2690	Aug	2690-2700
Sep	2700-2710	Oct	2710-2720
Nov	2720-2730	Dec	2730-2740
Jan	2740-2750	Feb	2750-2760
Mar	2760-2770	Apr	2770-2780
May	2780-2790	Jun	2790-2800
Jul	2800-2810	Aug	2810-2820
Sep	2820-2830	Oct	2830-2840
Nov	2840-2850	Dec	2850-2860
Jan	2860-2870	Feb	2870-2880
Mar	2880-2890	Apr	2890-2900
May	2900-2910	Jun	2910-2920
Jul	2920-2930	Aug	2930-2940
Sep	2940-2950	Oct	2950-2960
Nov	2960-2970	Dec	2970-2980
Jan	2980-2990	Feb	2990-3000
Mar	3000-3010	Apr	3010-3020
May	3020-3030	Jun	3030-3040
Jul	3040-3050	Aug	3050-3060
Sep	3060-3070	Oct	3070-3080
Nov	3080-3090	Dec	3090-3100
Jan	3100-3110	Feb	3110-3120
Mar	3120-3130	Apr	3130-3140
May	3140-3150	Jun	3150-3160
Jul	3160-3170	Aug	3170-3180
Sep	3180-3190	Oct	3190-3200
Nov	3200-3210	Dec	3210-3

THE TIMES
CITY DIARY

Viennese in a whirl over pub

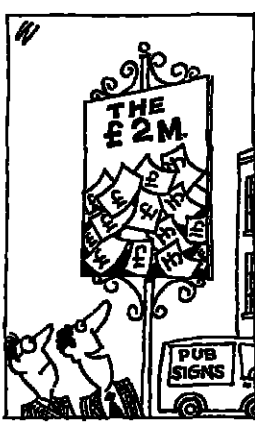
VIENNA is the latest City to fall for the Guinness Irish Pub Concept. To the sound of "genuine" Irish music, and surrounded by "authentic" Irish nick-nacks, the brewing group yesterday opened its 1,000th Irish theme pub in Austria's capital.

Traditional Irish staff served hearty British beef and Guinness stew to hungry Viennese, while Pat Mcagher, landlord of Molly Darcy's pub and a former barman at Moscow international airport, looked on in wonder. "I don't speak a word of German," he tells me. "But I'm learning a little bit everyday."

Rare Welsh bit

KPMG is on the hunt for a new chief executive to head the yet-to-be-formed European Structural Funds Programme, with a slightly unusual qualification. As well as being experienced in company start-ups and development, from either the public or the private sector, the winning candidate for the initial three-year post with a salary of between £40,000 and £50,000 may also have to be a Welsh language speaker.

ANN IVERSON stole the show yesterday at Laura Ashley's results meeting. Dressed in a stunning crushed velvet jacket in purple, the group chief executive made a perfect clothes horse for Laura Ashley's more sophisticated image. However, as one spectator commented: "She's usually a head-to-toe Armani woman."



"That is what Rank is paying for it"

Balance upset

HARRODS BANK has joined hands with the London Ladies Club to offer a red-carpet course in banking facilities that could well upset NatWest Bank. The club that is a favourite among Coutts clients will host the lessons on standing orders and direct debits at the Sloane Club on Lower Sloane Street. Upsetting news for NatWest which boasts a cosy relationship with the London Ladies Club, allowing the gals to distribute their newsletter from its west London branches.

CITIGATE Communications and Buchanan Communications are sharpening their heels for a showdown at the end of this month. Both PR houses are hosting parties on October 30. Buchanan was first to send out its invites, but Sophie Hull of Citigate says: "If the responses and acceptances are anything to go by, we're streets ahead."

Wifely support

FAMILY loyalty knows no bounds at MFI, where the chief executive was able to make eye contact with his wife from the podium at yesterday's AGM. Linda Randall tells me that, as a shareholder in the company, she never misses the AGM. Which is more than can be said for her fellow shareholders, who were few in number at the meeting. "One of the most interesting AGMs I went to was at Guinness, when Ernest Saunders was forced to face the audience," she says.

Pubs-to-riches formula found by select entrepreneurial band

Running a pub usually means hard work not wealth, says Jon Ashworth

As any publican will tell you, running a pub involves long hours and little glory. Unless you happen to be Derek Mapp, founder of Tom Cobleigh, the northern-based pubs chain, who started with one pub four years ago and has just sold out for £6.4 million.

The benefactor in this case is Rank Organisation, which is paying £95.6 million for Tom Cobleigh — or more than £2 million per pub. Mapp, who retained his 6.7 per cent stake in the company when it floated on the stock market last November, joins a select band of entrepreneurs to have followed the pub route to wealth over the years.

David Bruce did the same with the Firkin chain seven years ago. In June, Michael Cannon made about £70 million when he sold the Magic Pub Company to Greene King, the East Anglian brewer, for nearly £200 million. The following month, Whitbread's purchase of the Pelican Group, the name behind Café Rouge and Dome, triggered handsome windfalls for its co-founders, Roger Myers and Karen Jones. The deal worked out at about £3 million an outlet.

Mapp, who works from offices in Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, adopts a no-frills approach to his trade. He insists that all employees use first names, and famously drew up a "no memos" rule, threatening to sack anyone who wrote memos rather than talking face to face.

Mapp claims that the success of his pubs lies in their friendly, family-oriented approach, including perks such as nappy-changing facilities. He once said: "They are traditional pubs with no jukeboxes or gimmicks but they are also family-friendly."

Early success came to Michael Cannon, who has long been skilled in the pubs-to-riches approach. In 1993, he made £26 million on the sale of Devenish, his first pub company. After a year's rest, he founded the Magic Pub Company after buying about 300 run-down pubs from Chef and Brewer.

Two years on, the chain, including such memorable names as the Hungry Horse and Pickled Newt, was sold to Greene King for nearly £200 million. Cannon's pub interests started in 1975 with a half-



David Bruce, left, the founder of Firkin, with Tim Thwaites of Grosvenor Inns



Magic formula: Michael and Sally Cannon

Hugh Corbett: branded-pub theme pioneer



Sale of the Pelican Group brought handsome windfalls for Roger Myers and Karen Jones

share — worth just £30,000 — in a pub in Bristol.

Perhaps most famous of all is David Bruce, founder of the Firkin chain of pubs, who sold out to Midsummer Leisure in 1988 for £6.6 million. The chain is now owned by Allied Domecq.

After several years with Courage and Theakston's, Bruce lost his job and found himself on the dole. Using £20,000 in borrowed funds, he converted a pub in the Elephant and Castle in south London, and, in 1979, became the first London publican this century to brew beer in his own cellar. By 1985, Firkins had sprouted across the capital, and Bruce's Brewery was selling more than two million pints a year.

Two years after selling out, Bruce returned with a new company, Bertie Belcher's Brighton Brewery Company, and a new pub, the Hedgehog and Hoghead, in nearby Hove. As with outlets like the Flourder & Firkin (described as "a great place"), Bruce kept up his eclectic approach to branding with the banner: "Hogswill do anything for a pint of Belcher's — there's snout better."

He later launched a new beer at a riverside pub in Richmond on Thames, Surrey, calling it Cirrhosis of the

River. Bruce is now the largest single shareholder in Grosvenor Inns, owner of the Slug & Lettuce, and Hedgehog & Hoghead chains. He stepped down from the board in July to concentrate on private brewing interests in North America, but remains a non-executive director. The chairman of Grosvenor's is Tim Thwaites.

The seeds for a new generation of themed pubs were sown in 1989 when the Monopolies and Mergers Commission ordered the dismantling of the tied pubs system. Under the so-called Beer Orders, the top six brewers were ordered to sell half their pubs in excess

of 2,000 each — a total of 11,000 outlets. Keen-eyed entrepreneurs were able to cherry-pick hundreds of sites, then transform the outlets with clever branding.

Branded pubs and restaurants continue to command huge sums. In July, the London-based Pitcher and Piano chain changed hands for £20 million, even though its annual sales are only about £5 million. This demonstrates the premiums that groups are prepared to pay for a brand.

The same month, Whitbread paid £133.1 million for the Pelican Group, owner of the Café Rouge and Dome chains. Roger Myers, founder and chairman, was left with shares and options worth about £3.15 million, while Karen Jones, co-founder and managing director, held a stake worth £2.7 million.

Those still waiting to cash-in include Tim Martin, chairman of JD Wetherspoon, who has about £64 million tied up in nearly 150 pubs, spread from London to Scotland. Born in England but raised in New Zealand, Martin put down £10,000 as a deposit on a pub in Muswell Hill, north London, in 1979. By 1983, the number of pubs under management had risen to four, and Wetherspoon, named after one of Martin's former school-teachers, was clearing £180,000 in profits. The company recently announced profits of £13.1 million on turnover of more than £100 million.

One of the pioneers of the branded-pub theme is Hugh Corbett, who has started three chains of pubs in and around London in the past 15 years. He sold the first, the Slug & Lettuce, in 1989, and the second, Harvey Floorbangers, in 1992, netting £4.5 million for Corbett and his partner. The pubs had an "Eighties" feel to them — bare wooden floors, large windows and a trendy clientele.

Corbett is currently developing a new London-based chain of "Tup" pubs — the name is inspired by the male sheep — and thinks there is still some mileage left in the branded concept. He said: "There is still room for branded operators. Look at what people have historically done in the retail sector. If they have reasonably good brands, people will go in and spend money."

Corbett thinks the amount of money being spent on pubs — as much as 20 times earnings for a particular outlet — is out of touch with reality. Derek Mapp, meanwhile, will be toasting his newly-won place in the pub millionaires' hall of fame. Rank intends to develop Tom Cobleigh's 44 branded pubs and 17 tenanted pubs under the delightful motto "Unspoilt Pubs For Nice People". It couldn't happen to a nicer person.

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One of the pioneers of the branded-pub theme is Hugh Corbett, who has started three chains of pubs in and around London in the past 15 years. He sold the first, the Slug & Lettuce, in 1989, and the second, Harvey Floorbangers, in 1992, netting £4.5 million for Corbett and his partner. The pubs had an "Eighties" feel to them — bare wooden floors, large windows and a trendy clientele.

Corbett is currently developing a new London-based chain of "Tup" pubs — the name is inspired by the male sheep — and thinks there is still some mileage left in the branded concept. He said: "There is still room for branded operators. Look at what people have historically done in the retail sector. If they have reasonably good brands, people will go in and spend money."

Corbett thinks the amount of money being spent on pubs — as much as 20 times earnings for a particular outlet — is out of touch with reality. Derek Mapp, meanwhile, will be toasting his newly-won place in the pub millionaires' hall of fame. Rank intends to develop Tom Cobleigh's 44 branded pubs and 17 tenanted pubs under the delightful motto "Unspoilt Pubs For Nice People". It couldn't happen to a nicer person.

The seeds for a new generation of themed pubs were sown in 1989 when the Monopolies and Mergers Commission ordered the dismantling of the tied pubs system. Under the so-called Beer Orders, the top six brewers were ordered to sell half their pubs in excess



ANTHONY HARRIS

Stability: how the old will rock the boat

The EU finance ministers looked pretty smug after their meeting in Dublin. They did not just play Waiting for Blair; they agreed in principle on the German proposal for an EU stability pact. This will commit members to fiscal responsibility, so how dare the analysts call the Euro a potentially weak currency? No other will have such backing. All perfectly convincing — if your time horizon ends at 1999. Look into the next millennium, and it all falls into what we might call the Lloyd's trap.

The Lloyd's names all thought they were rich; but forgot their unlimited liabilities. They had some excuse because the losses that woke them so rudely were unprecedented (though there had been warnings); all the same, their personal balance sheets were deceptive. EU ministers have no excuse for equally deceptive public accounts; nor have the bond analysts who regard Bunds and Oats so benignly. The gap in the accounts hides the unfunded pension liabilities that hang over most European markets — the French and German markets most of all — and the facts have been public knowledge for well over a decade.

The OECD first drew attention to the burden as long ago as 1982, and has updated its warnings since then; and in May this year the IMF published a chart that should give both ministers and bond analysts sleepless nights. It shows the capital value of unfunded pension liabilities — the hidden part of the iceberg of public debt. There is no room here for the chart, but the figures for the G7 countries speak for themselves. For France it is nearly 120 per cent of GDP — about double the official debt level allowed under the Maastricht criteria for EMU entry. And this is on top of acknowledged debt, which is already over the limit. Germany is just about as bad.

Now the Anglo-Saxons. The US has a gap that could be closed by raising the social security tax by less than 1 per cent of income; we are at the virtuous extreme. Our unfunded liability is less than 5 per cent of GDP, which brings the whole debt iceberg well within Maastricht limits. If future fiscal problems

are the only test, then gilts and US Treasuries should be the only choice for the long-sighted bondholder.

How can this be, since the problem of transferring resources to the retired is, in principle, the same in all countries? Partly because the problem really is smaller for Britain: our population is not ageing nearly as fast as most across the Channel. Partly because we are mean, with public pension at a level that might make Scrooge pause — the US had a bigger problem because its social security payments are more generous. But largely because Mrs Thatcher privatised the problem when she abolished Serps, the state earnings-related pension scheme. We, and the Americans, have transferred most of the burden to the private financial markets.

Is this a solution, or another form of evasion? This depends, as Brian Reading argues in a profound essay in the current *Lombard Street Research International Review*, on what happens to the private contributions. If they simply push up the equity indices — and this is certainly a major reason for the secular bull markets in London and New York — then they are really just another equity trap, as deceptive as the "wealth" created in the late-1980s house price boom. When the old need to spend their savings, the indices will be driven down again. But if the savings go to finance real investment at home, or well chosen foreign assets, then there is real provision for the future.

Only the US can be really smug: the bull market has sired a boom in real investment. We can only hope that our boom is just around the corner, as Roger Bootle forecasts. Our foreign asset selection used to be excellent; but since London managers seem to have missed the Wall Street opportunity, not so good now. But one conclusion jumps out: what the EU needs to offer to make any sense of British EMU membership is a stability pact based on real numbers. We cannot afford to bale out their pensioners. Put up, or stay out.

BUSINESS LETTER

Statutory rights useless in real world

From Mr Andrew White

Sir, Mr John Good (Business letters, September 19) exhorts the Government to introduce a statutory right to charge interest on overdue accounts, complaining that codes of practice and standards are and will be ineffective. Legislation is not, I believe, the answer. It would take a brave (or foolhardy) small businessman to enforce his legal rights against a powerful purchaser threatening to take his business elsewhere. It is surely the case that, in the real world of business, statutory rights have no greater chance of affecting commercial reality than do voluntary codes.

Furthermore, the right to charge interest misses the fundamental issues involved. Mr Good should speak to more businessmen and he will soon find that it is not the lack of interest on the money that causes the problems but the lack of money itself. Or does he suggest that such businessmen will be unconcerned as to how long debts remain outstanding, as long as the market rate of interest is accruing?

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW WHITE,
Senior Partner,
Gordon Leighton & Co.
Chartered Accountants,
50 Queen Anne Street,
London W1.

Stephen Pollard on a tale of human frailty at Barings

Sorry saga found in a bank account

How on earth could one man bring down Barings? As the careful account of the collapse in *All That Glitters* makes clear, although the trading was Nick Leeson's alone, it was fatal, rather than merely painful, because of the massive incompetence of the Barings management.

The absorbing account, with which the book opens, of the attempts co-ordinated by the Bank of England to save Barings, details the gradual recognition by the other banks being asked to contribute to a rescue fund of the shambles that passed for management. Their patience finally snapped when the assembled bankers learnt that £700 million had been paid by Barings as margin on the "secret account" trading without any understanding of what it was funding.

With management dazed by the "profits" reported from Singapore, Nick Leeson was able to tell contradictory stories to his bosses: to those questioning the suicidal trading strategy, it was done on the instructions of the secret "Customer X", and, to those querying the enormous sums demanded for margin, it was valuable "switching trades" done on the bank's behalf.

No one seriously questioned how such incredible profits could be made from supposedly risk-free trading, or why attempts to get even the most basic financial information on the Singapore operation were blocked or side-tracked.

John Gapper and Nicholas Denton spend a third of the book carefully setting the scene — the recent history of Barings, its entry into new markets through Christopher Heath's trading operation, the uncontrolled growth of Baring Securities and the internal power struggle to wrest it from Heath's control. This makes for a leisurely read — Nick Leeson's trading is not addressed until over half way through the book — but is crucial to understanding the collapse. The fragmented management, the faulty controls and the



Pollard says the Leeson affair had its root in recent history of Barings

continue for nearly three years (until the market, not the management, found it out), had their roots firmly in the bank's recent history.

The failings of management, and how Nick Leeson capitalised on them, are laid bare in unemotional and non-

judgmental prose, largely leaving the reader to apportion blame. Indeed, sometimes a more critical approach would be wholly justified. The authors describe how Simon Jones, the rude and aggressive manager in Singapore behind whose obsession about protect-



ing his "patch" from outside interference Leeson sheltered, would often humiliate an employee in front of others. This is simply described as "old-fashioned management".

The inside information, particularly about the rescue attempt, is predictably strong, and the account reads like a financial thriller. There are also some intriguing personal details to put flesh on the bones — for example, that Christopher Heath recruited only spenders, not savers, so that the hunger to make vast sums would always be there; and that despite the "laid-back manner" and "New Age beliefs" of Mike Kilian, a Tokyo futures and options manager, his nose "has been broken twice during arguments on trading floors".

The authors paint a picture of human frailty on a huge canvas. Leeson's "Achilles' heel" was his own desire to be admired, and the complex amalgam of personal and professional inadequacies in Barings ensured that he was admired right to the end.

The complexity of areas of the derivatives markets, with even the most sophisticated computer programmes struggling to provide accounting data, and the enormous sums traded daily raise clearly the Doomsday scenario. Mix in a strong element of human weakness, and you have a destructive brew. It was largely good fortune that this collapse did not threaten the system itself, but merely highlighted the inherent dangers.

However, the phenomenal problems of controlling the rampant derivatives markets mean that we may all, from sophisticated trader to modest pension contributor, be living on borrowed time.

□ All That Glitters, by John Gapper and Nicholas Denton (Hamish Hamilton, £20)

Stephen Pollard is a partner in Kinross Napier, the law firm that

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EDS

Shares slip in quiet trading

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES			
110	111	112	113
114	115	116	117
118	119	120	121
122	123	124	125
126	127	128	129
130	131	132	133
134	135	136	137
138	139	140	141
142	143	144	145
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986	987	988	989
990	991	992	993
994	995	996	997
998	999	1000	1001

Shares slip in quiet trading

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

High Low Company Price % Chg P/E				High Low Company Price % Chg P/E				High Low Company Price % Chg P/E				High Low Company Price % Chg P/E			
274	276	Quaker	274	0	47	14	21	21	22	Quaker	22	0	11	11	11
275	277	Quaker	277	0	47	14	21	21	22	Quaker	22	0	11	11	11
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358	360	Quaker	360	0	47	14	21	21	22	Quaker	22	0	11	11	11
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362	364	Quaker	364	0	47	14	21	21	22	Quaker	22	0	11	11	11
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DESIGN
Spoofs, shocks and a bizarre tribute to Disney enliven Venice's biennale of architecture



TELEVISION
Patrick Stewart flies in for a grand 20th anniversary reunion of the *I, Claudius* cast

THE TIMES ARTS

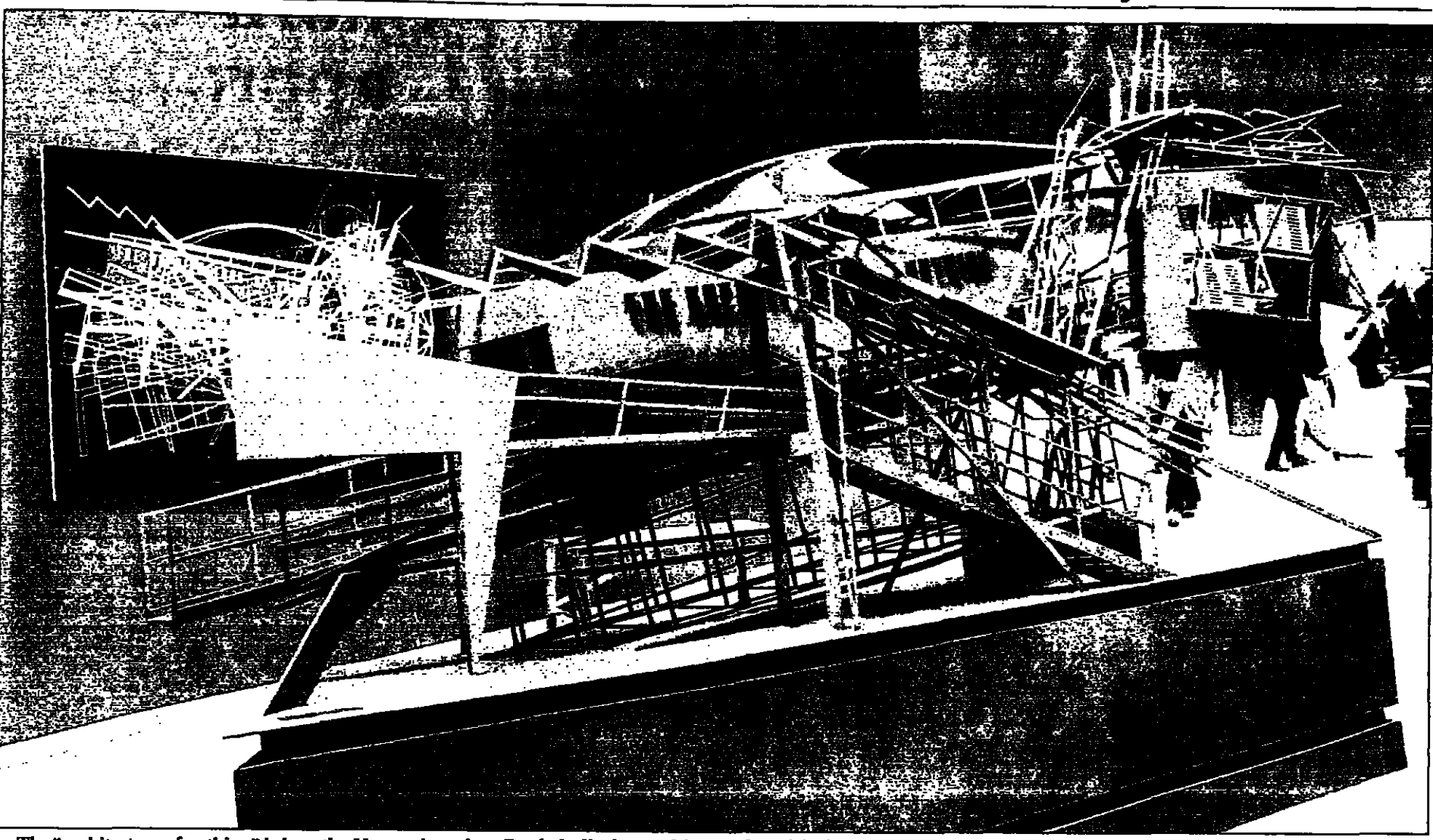


MUSIC 1
The great Mstislav Rostropovich steers the LSO through a typically passionate Russian evening



MUSIC 2
Thomas Allen steps into the breach and rescues the LPO's gala at Glyndebourne

ARCHITECTURE: Marcus Binney finds subversive wit as well as controversy at Venice's Biennale



The "architecture of nothing" is how the Hungarians describe their display: architectural models that are pure sculpture; architectural designs that are abstract paintings

Here's one we'll never make

With my tongue firmly in my cheek I declare that the winners of the 1996 Venice Architecture Biennale are the Hungarians. They have spotted the mood of the judges and seen the worldwide Gadarene rush towards Deconstruction: "exploding" buildings with tilting walls and jagged corners.

They have run up a spoof titled "The Architecture of Nothing". Their pavilion is filled with architectural models that are pure sculpture, and architectural designs that are abstract paintings. This is accompanied by excruciating cacophonous music supposedly computer-generated by people moving through the show.

In general this Biennale is more like a fashion show than an architecture exhibition. Today's architects, it seems, are no longer social reformers out to change the world (perhaps a good thing), but artists and designers bent on creating a new look: bold, colourful, hugely avant-garde. Significantly, the engineers who enable all these extraordinary buildings to stand up hardly get a mention.

The main pavilion pays homage to 30 greats and 30 "emerging voices". The choice is controversial. Britain scores four among the greats: Sir Norman Foster (but not Lord Rogers), followed by Ralph Erskine, architect of the Ark in Hammer-smith — who actually lives and works in Sweden. More surprising are the inclusions of two British architects who have only built one building each: Peter Cook, whose flamboyant designs for capsules on stilts appear like a modern-day version of Heath Robinson; and Zaha Hadid, elevated almost to the presiding goddess of the show with ever-more-jewel-like designs and models for the rejected Cardiff Opera House.

By contrast, the British Pavilion is centred on what many see as our least glorious building project: the over-budget and long-overdue British Library. The architect Colin St John Wilson has made a 30-foot high collage of the prototypes for different parts of the building. It is full of gentle jokes: the Lion of St Mark caged behind one of his balconies, for example, or Wilson as a young man in a carnival mask when he began the library all those years ago.

Complete contrast, dedicated to depicting the dramatic and poetic transformation of derelict industrial sites. "Single Idea" pavilions work well. The Japanese abandon architecture altogether with a powerful display of the Kobe earthquake, where visitors pick their way across piles of debris while klaxons ring. The Dutch have simply strewn the floor with tens of thousands of tiny "Monopoly" houses, inviting visitors to plan their own model villages.

What of the Americans? Now that the word Disney has become a term of architectural abuse (this side of the Atlantic anyway), they have stunned the Europeans by devoting their entire pavilion to the Disney Corporation, putting on display an astonishing range of models, perspectives and bird's-eye views, including all the Magic Kingdom castles. It ranges from the seriously grotesque EuroDisney hotels, through startling designs by Arita Isozaki and Frank Gehry to the latest in Pop architecture: hotels clad in guitars that are larger than the buildings themselves; and — wait for it — a Disney liner that will soon tour the world's oceans.

A return to sobriety comes in the Spanish pavilion, which has a fascinating display on an ambitious national programme for building new concert halls and restoring 19th-century theatres. Bringing the exhibition right up to date are designs for the new Museum of Contemporary Art overlooking the bay at Rio, by the great Oscar Niemeyer, architect of Brasilia. He was born in 1905, but this is just as futuristic as anything in a Bond movie.

The best aspect of the Biennale is that it shows a burst of adventurous alternatives to conventional modernism. Yet it is mostly as remote from everyday life as a couture fashion show. All credit, then, to the young Pinos (they call themselves GROUP) who designed an elegant wood-framed "leisure studio" that they could construct themselves. And even more to the Canadians, who — in the best pavilion of all — show how timber buildings can be adventurous and not just zany.

● The exhibition is at the Biennale Gardens in Venice (0039-41-521-8711) until November 17



Dummy roadworkers at the Japanese earthquake pavilion

"Been there, bought the T-shirt" may also be the reaction of many visitors to the display of Foster's highly acclaimed gallery and library at Nimes. After this, just two National Lottery projects get a look in. They are Grimshaw's mile-long "greenhouse" in a Cornish claypit, and MacCormack's casket-like Ruskin archive in Lancaster.

Next door, the French have naturally responded to the fashion theme with style. Odile Decq and François Roche are the names to watch. Opposite, the German pavilion is a

complete contrast, dedicated to depicting the dramatic and poetic transformation of derelict industrial sites.

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An orgy of TV reminiscence

W. Stephen Gilbert dons his toga and goes to the *I, Claudius* party

Having rinsed out my old toga the night before — that dried blood is so tenacious — I went to a party last week to mark the twentieth anniversary of the first BBC transmission of Robert Graves's *I, Claudius*. It was billed as "an orgy of reminiscence".

To look back is quite an unusual thing for me," says Herbert Wise, who directed the 13 episodes. "and I'm amazed at how well it stands up."

Such a project is unthinkable at the present BBC. All 650 minutes were recorded on tape in the studio without a single outside shot. The result is that, buoyed up by Tim Harvey's universally hailed sets, the actors go for it in an electrifyingly theatrical way, relishing Jack Pulman's bracing and mordant script.

Made now, *Claudius* would have to be on film, shot where the light was thought Mediterranean and the games and other great set pieces could be "realistically" staged with hundreds of extras, at the expense of dialogue and character. The slow-burn structure — and even Wise admits to having been nervous of the deliberation in the first two episodes — would be out. So too would be any actor like Derek Jacobi, nowhere near starry enough to be entrusted with such a gigantic role. Who would it be today: Nick Berry? Kevin Whately? Nigel Le Vailant? Whoever, it would not be the director's choice but Alan Yentob's.

"At the time," says Wise, "we didn't know we were making a great epic. You just did a job."

Claudius scored a number of firsts, mostly by a mixture of cunning and luck. Wise says: "I was the first director who demanded that I do it all myself," the first also to have the same studio camera crew throughout a long serial, allowing him to develop a close understanding with the late Jim Atkinson. "They don't have the cameramen now," he adds ruefully.

Much of the craft was executed on the wing. Barbara Kronig designed the costumes — "Just keep me in touch," said Wise. Kronig, who organised the reunion with script editor Betty Willingale, and Tim Harvey were permitted to go to Rome for research, "to see the perspective and the colours".

Pam Meager's make-up used prosthetics in a new way to age the actors. "We were

pushing it," she says. Jacobi's old-age face took six hours. And the financial constraint was fierce. "Tim, Barbara and I each gave back £1,000 at the end because we were under such pressure. I said at the time, the Romans weren't the only ones who got away with murder."

I, Claudius reaches back to a make-do-and-mend spirit at the BBC. It had its limitations but it also produced a camaraderie unknown to current programme-makers. John Hurt, whose outrageous Caligula is fondly remembered, declares that "it would be hard to find a show that one had so much fun doing, before or since". "It was like a real company," says Kronig, "a theatre company." Pam Meager remembers there were department heads who led



A young Derek Jacobi as the BBC's *Claudius*

and bolstered the craft services. "There's no one encouraging us now."

As the actors hugged each other, the buffer went untouched (I told Betty Willingale she needed to hire a food-taster, most of her guests having been poisoned in the serial). But they roared and applauded at the tape of extracts Willingale had put together, none louder than Patrick Stewart, who flew in from Los Angeles to see again one of his bewigged performances. He says *Claudius* is aired regularly on cable in the United States, where it has such a huge cult following that he is more readily identified as Sejanus than as *Star Trek's* Captain Picard.

First on his feet after the screening, Wise cried: "We did have a wonderful script." As the Sybil tells the newly dead *Claudius*, it was "quite a story, wasn't it".

CONCERTS: A gala occasion at Glyndebourne; celebrating Prokofiev in London; and contemporary Baltic choral works in the Vale of Glamorgan

To the aid of the party

LPO Gala
Glyndebourne

vanni was first summoned to help the salvage operation, a practical solution because the orchestra play it under Soli at the Festival Hall the weekend after next and Allen takes the title role at Covent Garden later in the year. Even so, he was probably unwise to

begin with Giovanni's serene. At the start of the evening the voice sounded more arid than beguiling.

It was left to the American mezzo Susan Graham to provide the gala feel. This she certainly did with *Smanie implacabili*. Dorabella's furious aria from *Così* in which all consolation is spurned. Graham has been justly admired in the part, both at Covent Garden and here at Glyndebourne. She was on home territory, but she has rarely sung the aria with more panache and accuracy. A totally different side of her mezzo

was heard in Sesto's aria of forlorn resignation from *Clemenza*.

After an exuberant Beethoven Eight from Norrington, so exuberant that at one point he dropped his baton, Thomas Allen came into his own during the final third of the evening. He switched from his normal role of the Count in *Figaro* to the servant for *Non più andrai* and then to Rossini's own *Figaro* and *Largo al factotum*. Audience-pleasing stuff, but delivered with élan. In Cherubino's *Non so più* Graham proved that she does not need a set and a director behind her to be an actress as well as a singer.

Mezzo and baritone gave the Dorabella-Guglielmo duet from *Così* as a playfully sexy encore and then courteously left the floor to Norrington and the orchestra for the *Clemenza* overture.

JOHN HIGGINS

Voices from the valley

Vale of Glamorgan
Festival

THE Estonian Philharmonic Chamber Choir's British debut has been a highlight of this month's Vale of Glamorgan Festival. Founded 15 years ago by the conductor Tonu Kaljuste, the choir has a wide-ranging repertoire, but it arrived in Wales with only contemporary Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian works in its bags. All the composers performed at Llandaff Cathedral and St Donat's Castle in the final pair of concerts were represented by retrospective works — an indication of the power of music in keeping national and religious traditions alive during the years of Soviet domination. But most of the pieces revealed great individuality, too, and the only disappointment was Arvo Pärt's *Te Deum*, the longest and least interesting of the scores. Two works that seemed to achieve spiritual simplicity without the longeurs were the Lithuanian Peteris Vaskas's

Urmus Sisask's *Deo Gratias*. Vaskas's ecstatic string sonorities, smoothly played by the BBC National Orchestra of Wales under Kaljuste, and Sisask's rich but delicate part-writing both filled the spaces of Llandaff Cathedral to moving effect.

Conduct most becoming

LSO/
Rostropovich
Barbican Hall

project of Stalin's in the last year of his life. Chery marches and noble-hearted orchestral hymns of praise combine in a spurge of musical political correctness.

It showed the imaginative skill of Prokofiev's Second Violin Concerto, the solo part delivered with panache and not a little charm amid all the bravura by the youthful Maxim Vengerov. He seemed to relish the sustained physical effort in the bowing and fingering needed to encompass the brilliance and poetry of the fiddle in a work that has lost none of its appeal since it was written more than 60 years ago.

I was more impressed than

ever by the way the solo and orchestral elements complement each other, and although Rostropovich had some less than successful moments in balancing the violin with the admittedly shrill woodwind in the opening movement, from the slow movement onwards the orchestra's contribution was on a par with the soloists.

The orchestra came fully into its own in Tchaikovsky's Fourth Symphony to end the programme. The controlled fervour and expressive phrasing at the outset was followed by string playing at its most resplendent in the romantic Andantino movement, crisp and spirited in the famous *pizzicato ostinato*. And the brass added almost Gothic malevolence to the finale.

NOEL GOODWIN

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DANCE

New steps among old bones: Dance Umbrella parades with the dinosaur at the Natural History Museum



OPERA

Paris offers 'the most civilised four hours you could hope to spend in the theatre'

THE TIMES ARTS



MUSICALS

Denmark hosts a competition to find the next big thing in the world of musicals



OFFER

Thelma Holt is among the lecturers in an exciting new Theatre Club series

Barefoot in Jurassic park

Fossils provide backdrop and inspiration for a dance on the origins of life, writes Allen Robertson

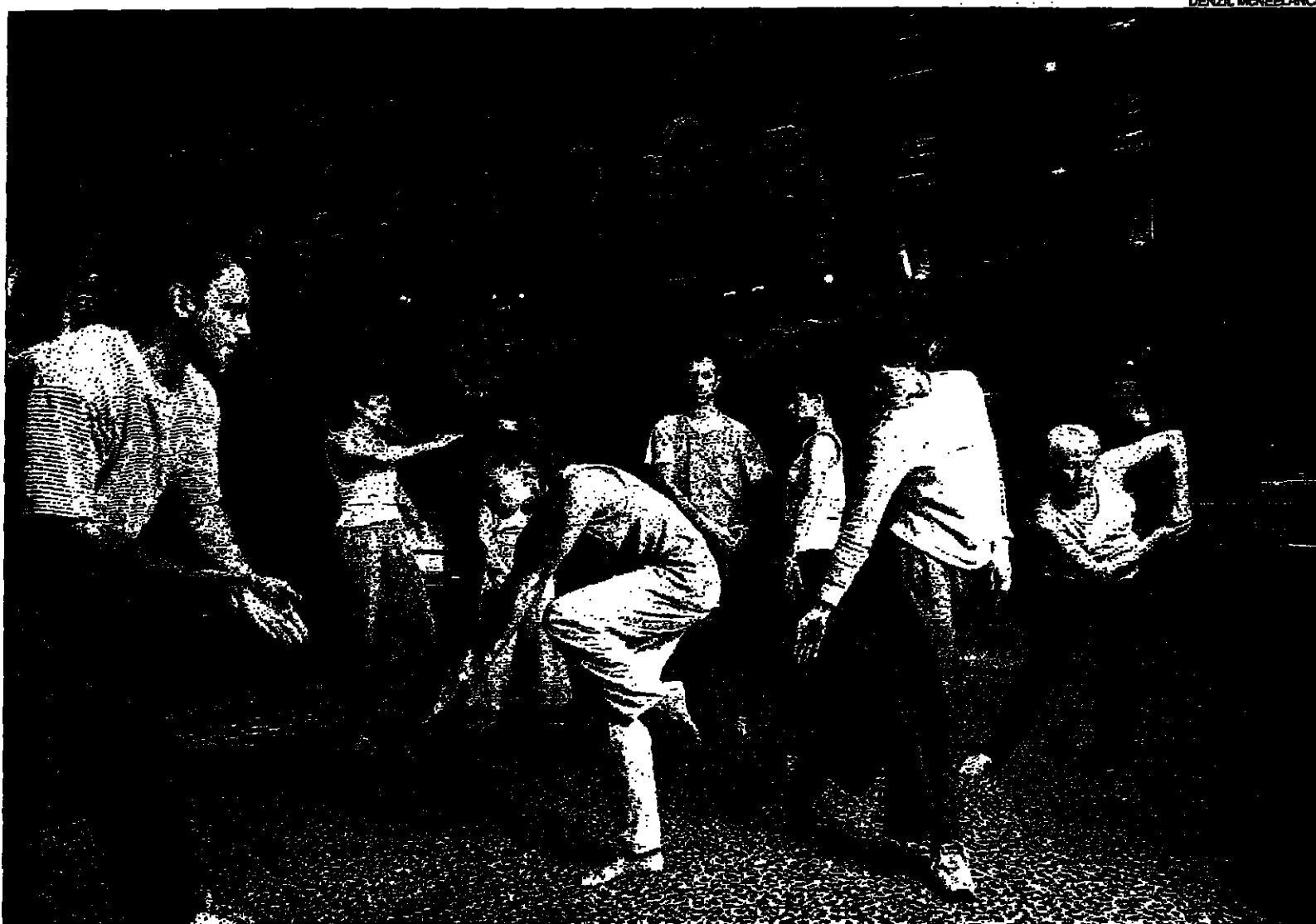
Once a dance artist moves beyond the comfortably familiar confines of the proscenium arch and steps out into the "real" world, all sorts of problems arise. But not until now has a dancer had to cope with being upstaged by a dinosaur.

The fossil in question is the one that looms up in the central hall of the Natural History Museum, the unorthodox locale chosen as the site for the opening event in this year's Dance Umbrella festival of innovative international dance. The piece created specifically for this spot by the American choreographer Stephan Koplowitz is called *Genesis Canyon*. It lasts for only 40 minutes, but took three years to bring to fruition.

Koplowitz is an artist who had long intrigued Val Bourne, Dance Umbrella's artistic director. "He has a very special talent for making us look at familiar things in new and exciting ways, for making us see that dance isn't just lovely elitist stuff that only happens at the Opera House. We all need to be conscious of that, and that's what I'd like this project to achieve."

"Those of us who care about dance know this is the truth, but a project such as this really does allow the general public to see that there isn't anything to be afraid of, to see that dance can be for everybody."

Dances created for individual spaces — known as "site-specific" — are not easy to bring off. All sorts of bureau-



Choreographer Stephan Koplowitz directs dancers at the Natural History Museum. The 40-minute *Genesis Canyon* took three years to create

cratic byways have to be negotiated. In this case, Koplowitz and his dancers had to start rehearsing at 7.30am, then break until after dark. The staff at the museum, supportive though they have been, could hardly ignore the fact that the primary purpose of their building during the day is to serve the public.

"One of the things that a site-specific work does," says Bourne, "is to entice people to take a fresh look at something

that they might have taken for granted. I drive past here every day, but I hadn't been inside since I was a kid. But Steve is once again making us realise what a spectacular building this is."

"In a way, site-specific work is evangelical because it offers the possibility of erasing that pernicious idea that dance is for a select few who have been educated to understand it."

The creator of *Genesis Canyon* couldn't agree more. "I'm

very proud to say that my work is accessible to anybody," Koplowitz says. "My work is very clear. It is all about people, in the same way that buildings are about people. In my works people talk, they sing, they chant, they might play an instrument, and they dance. It's a very collaborative thing. I am not a purist."

Now 40, Koplowitz has built a reputation in the United States for creations in spots like New York's Grand Central Station. But he was in one of America's most remote locales when Bourne invited him to come to London.

"I was working on a piece specifically created for the most eastern point in the United States — Eastport, Maine — 12 hours from New

York. I was working on a remote Native American reservation when the phone rings and it's Val calling from London inviting me to book a flight and come on over to be a professional 'site-seer'. In the end, I made four trips and saw many, many places."

Koplowitz probably now knows more about London's grand historic buildings than most Londoners. Initially he had conceived of a project that would start off in the British Museum's Reading Room and progress, with the audience trailing the dancers, across Russell Square to end up in the new British Library. "That idea was kicked around for some 18 months," says Bourne. "But, and I'm sure Steve would agree, we have got the right venue in the end."

"All along," says Koplowitz, "the Natural History Museum was number two on my list. I can only say that I was lucky that the British Library didn't come through, because this has turned out to be one of the most perfect sites I've ever worked in."

"We've come up with a piece that has been directly inspired by the particular landscape of this cathedral-like room. Anybody who stops to think about it must recognise that the mission of this institution begins with the origins of life. That's what put this building in business. So, *Genesis Canyon* is inspired by that, by this huge expanse of time."

● *Genesis Canyon* can be seen at 7.30pm and 9pm on Saturday and Sunday at the Natural History Museum (0171-387 0031)

A Gallic vision of Hades

SOMETIMES I hate the French — they can do things effortlessly that we manage only with Herculean effort. Without any fuss at all they can restore their national opera house, Palais Garnier's matchless fantasy, truly one of the world's great buildings, glows once more, but gently — the refurbishment has been achieved with the utmost discretion.

And within the Garnier they can mount a production at once intimately elegant, vastly entertaining and hugely serious of Rameau's *tragedie lyrique* — just about the most civilised (and swift) four hours you could hope to spend in a theatre.

The piece could of course only be French and born in the Age of Reason. Who else would devise a version of *Phedre* in which the guilty stepmother's demise passes almost unnoticed and all is concentrated on a Happy Ending, with Hippolytus surviving his encounter with the sea-monster to live in blissful contentment with his beloved Aricie? There is a proper Gallic detachment throughout; if the action threatens to get too heated, it is broken off for lengthy song-and-dance diversions to near-comic effect when Theseus returns from a trip to Hades to find an amount of nastiness in his Athenian woodshed, but has to wait patiently while his subjects welcome him home.

First things first — I love it. Even after 250 years, Rameau's music cannot fail to astound with its variety and invention, from passages of Bachian gravity to rustic dance rhythms and orchestral effects that make the eruption of Berlioz a century later altogether less surprising. The music was played with boundless style and vivacity by William Christie and his Arts Florissants. Just as satisfying was Ana Yopes's choreography: period dance over here can look precious and mannered, but here the wrist- and footwork were elegantly

OPERA
Hippolyte et Aricie
Paris

natural. Jean-Marie Villégier's production found a perfect air of ironic detachment to temper its basic seriousness. His idea of Hades as a sort of 18th-century

Ellis Island where admission is granted by short-tempered clerks and where you spend eternity being whipped by ballet boys seemed a fair enough vision of hell to me.

The singing was magnificent: Lorraine Hunt heroic of tone as Phaedra, Laurent Naouri (Theseus) showing the art of French declamation is not dead, and Mark Padmore (Hippolytus) matching him consonant for consonant.

RODNEY MILNES

Let's talk stage

THE TIMES
THEATRE CLUB

The Society of London Theatre, and the hour-long sessions, starting at 5.30pm, will take place at the Theatre Museum in Tavistock Street, WC2. Tickets are £2 (normally £3.50). To book, telephone 0171-836 2330 (Tues to Sun: 11am to 7pm)

Oct 15, *The New Septuagint*. Does new writing have a heart? What are today's writers' concerns? Stephen Daldry (artistic director of the Royal Court), Max Stafford Clark (Out of Joint theatre company), and playwrights Mark Ravenhill and Joe Penhall discuss

Oct 22, *Across the Media*. The problems of adaptation are discussed by Nigel Williams, the novelist, playwright, and former editor of BBC2's *Omnibus* programme, and Jonathan Holloway, whose adaptation of *Burlesque* is currently at the Phoenix Theatre, London

Oct 29, *Theatre ghettos*. Gay plays, black plays, Irish plays: is theatre being over-segregated and, as a result, preaching to and entertaining the already converted? The panel includes Philip Hedley (Theatre Royal Stratford

East), Philip Orment (Gay Sweatshop) and Harrial Rai (Watermans Arts Centre)

Nov 5, *Does foreign theatre matter?* Why does Britain stage so little work from other countries? Producer Thelma Holt, translator Jeremy Sams and critic John Elsom discuss

Nov 12, *Do we need the playwright?* What influence is performance art and physical theatre having on traditional theatre? Tom Morris of Battersea Arts Centre and performance artists Jonathan Stone and Andrey Bartenev discuss

Nov 19, *From Fringe to Up West*. What happens to a play when it moves from a small venue to the West End? Jenny Topper, artistic director of Hampstead Theatre, the Royal Court's chief executive, Vicky Heywood, and playwright Kevin Elyot tell all

Choruses of approval

The winner of the first Musical of the Year competition has been chosen — and the year is 1920

The top prize in the first Musical of the Year competition goes to an American, whose musical is based on a novel by a Hungarian. *Enter the Guardsman*, which won the £40,000 top prize on Saturday, is an elegant, witty, light chamber piece which could do well in small British and American theatres.

But it had its first public outing as part of a multi-million-pound television spectacular staged in Aarhus, Denmark. The reason is fairly simple — not only does Aarhus have the best lyric theatre in Denmark, but it is near the headquarters of Bang & Olufsen, a major sponsor of the show, and of the competition.

It was a spectacular event, thanks to the West End talent which was shipped in to perform the excerpts — all the entries had to be in English, because most successful musicals are. Julia McKenzie directed a team of actors led by Denis Quilley, Bonnie Langford, Joanna Riding and John Barrowman.

We saw only half an hour of each of the three shortlisted musicals, chosen from 266 entries, and when the dust settled it was known that the winner will probably be seen at Chichester next summer. The second prizewinner, *The Three Musketeers*, is likely to be produced at about the same time in Plymouth by Apollo Leisure, and both have the West End as their ultimate destination.

Enter the Guardsman is based on Ferenc Molnar's story of a showbiz marriage in which the husband tests the wife's fidelity by trying to seduce her while in disguise, all of it witnessed by a ghostly playwright. It

was created by the real-life American writing marriage of Scott Wentworth and Marion Adler, with music by a former concert pianist, Craig Bohlinger.

The dialogue is polished and snappy, and it was the script that won the prize, but the music is cleverly reminiscent of the light opera of the 1920s, the period of the musical.

The *Three Musketeers*, which won £20,000, is British, a treatment of the Dumas novel with music by George Stiles, lyrics by Paul Leigh and book by Peter Raby. The story has, of course, been adapted before — with mostly lamentable results. This time, Raby said, they have stuck to the original, taking it to its less than happy ending and investing the characters with some personality.

The third prizewinner (of £10,000) was also from America — *Red, Red Rose* by George Rosie and Paul Alan Johnson, a brash, coarse assessment of the lusty life and wild times of Robbie Burns.

There was, it must be said, some murmuring from the writers afterwards that, for an event that was supposed to celebrate their efforts, they were effectively sidelined by the TV production and not involved at all in rehearsals. But the questions Danish Broadcasting will be asking itself is whether any of the shows which bobbed to the top would be in line for production without Saturday's event, and whether the talents of the winners were merely being given a lift at Aarhus, rather than being discovered.

Perhaps all will become clearer in two years when, it is hoped, the exercise will be repeated.

SIMON TAIT



Clive Carter and Denis Quilley in the Musical of the Year, and winner of £40,000, *Enter the Guardsman*

EXCITEMENT ON TOUR

● SAVE £2 on tickets to see Dave Willets in *Something Wonderful*, a celebration of Rodgers and Hammerstein's genius:

Norwich Theatre Royal, Sept 30-Oct 1. Tickets normally £13.50, £15. Tel 01603 630000.

Bromley, Churchill Theatre, Oct 9-10. Normally £12.50, £15.50, Tel 0181-460 6677.

Wolverhampton, Grand Theatre, Oct 15-16. Normally £14.50, £16.50, Tel 01902 29212

● THE Romanian National Opera returns for a national tour bringing more than 200 singers, musicians and ballet dancers in an exciting programme of *Aida*, *The Magic Flute* and Bellini's rarely performed opera, *Norma*. Save £5 on tickets for performances at:

BRISTOL Hippodrome Oct 8: *Aida*. Tickets normally £28.50 to £34.50, Oct 9: *The*

Magic Flute. Tickets normally £26 to £31.50, Oct 10: *Norma*. Tickets normally £26 to £31.50, Tel 0117 928 0444.

EDINBURGH Playhouse Oct 15. *Aida*. Tickets normally £33 to £38, Oct 16: *The Magic Flute*. Tickets normally £30 to £35, Oct 17: *Norma*. Tickets normally £30 to £35, Tel 0131-357 2992

LONDON Albert Hall Oct 20: *Aida*. Tickets normally £37, Tel 0171-389 8212

AND MORE

LONDON

Coliseum Sept 30, Oct 7

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HOW TO BOOK — AND JOIN

TO BOOK, please phone the listed number during normal office hours. The price printed on the ticket you receive will be the special price negotiated by the Theatre Club. There may be a transaction charge to cover postage.

TO JOIN the Theatre Club either send a cheque for £12.50, made payable to The Theatre Club, together with your name, address and telephone number to The Theatre Club, P.O. Box 2164, Colchester CO2 8JL, or telephone 01206 225145 using your credit card. For general inquiries call 0171-387 9673

On
9TH OCTOBER 1996
at 7.00PM
THE PHANTOM
will be
celebrating his
10TH BIRTHDAY

For this performance Andrew Lloyd Webber and Cameron Mackintosh are giving away over half the theatre free to the public as a thank you for magnificently supporting the show for the last decade and making every performance a sell-out.

Due to the unprecedented demand for tickets a ballot will be held on Tuesday 1st October and two tickets allocated to each applicant drawn. Successful applicants will be notified as soon as possible after the draw.

To enter the draw write stating name, address and contact telephone number to PHANTOM BIRTHDAY.

Her Majesty's Theatre, Haymarket, London SW1Y 4QR.

TELEPHONE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

Personal callers can complete an application form available at the Box Office of Her Majesty's Theatre. Members of the public who have already written requesting tickets will automatically be entered into the ballot and need not write again. Multiple applications from the same individual will be removed from the ballot. Applications will be accepted until first post on Monday 30th September.

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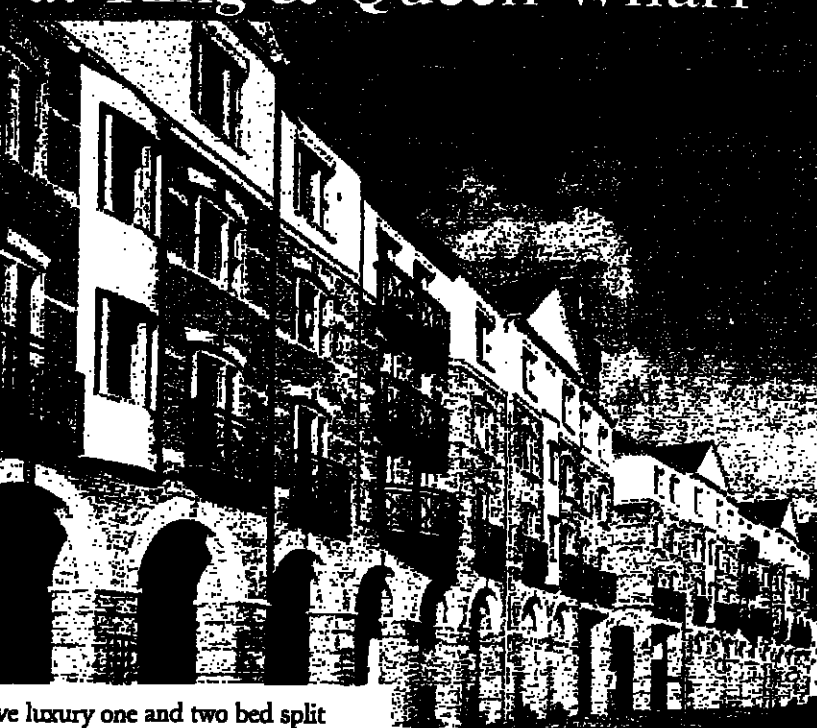
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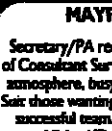
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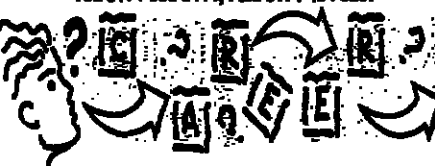
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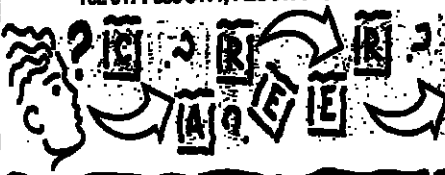
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Emerging Markets

Britain in danger of being left at the starting line

By DAVID MILLER

JOHN MAJOR wants a successful sporting nation, rightly believing that it reflects a healthy nation. He needs to direct urgent attention to the government's administration of Great Britain is not to become an international laughing stock.

The British Olympic Association (BOA) today holds its annual meeting with a briefing from Craig Reddie, the chairman, on the Games in Atlanta, where Britain's tally of 15 medals was perceived at home as being unsatisfactory. The stark warning from Professor Peter Radford, the executive chairman of the British Athletic Federation (BAF), is that the future is likely to be worse rather than better, unless the government arm of the new UK Sports Council wakes up.

Six months ago Radford made an application to the National Lottery, via the old Sports Council — shortly to become the English section under the umbrella of a new, so-called streamlined United Kingdom body — for £9 million. This is intended for adequate preparation of competitors for the next Games, at Sydney in 2000. Unbelievably, the reply was: "Apply again in the autumn for allocation in November 1997."

Such is the procrastination between one quango and another, between paper-shuffling sinecure chairmen, Sir Rodney Walker (old council) and Lord MacLaurin (new UK council), both of whom keep their titled heads beneath the parapet when the flak flies, that those with responsibility at the sharp end are frustratingly balked. While Government fiddles, prospects burn.

"We were trying to set the pace," Radford said. "We didn't want to wait until post-Atlanta. Now, another year is likely to have gone, a quarter of the Olympic cycle, before anything happens. If we don't get adequate funding, we're in danger of slipping into the

second division. We're still doing things in the old, amateurish way. A long-term programme needs long-term income."

So absurd is the procrastination of national interests, that Lord Archer, a former international sprinter and one of many alarmed about the decline of standards, wrote to Sir Rodney requesting immediate response to the BAF's needs. Sir Rodney has replied: "We expect to be in a position to announce our policies and structures on revenue funding in November 1996, with a view to considering first grant applications in February 1997." The earth has moved.

In conjunction with the



Radford: stark warning

BOA, Radford had negotiated for adjustment to lottery fund regulations, to make funds available for competitor preparation as well as facility creation, without which Britain cannot hope to match the rest of the world's leading nations on equal terms. It is true to argue, as some did after the disappointments of Atlanta, that more money would not necessarily mean more medals. The equation in the long term is undeniable.

Radford called the existing grant-aid funding for athletics from the (old) Sports Council "derisory". £1 million over four years. "[Some] athletes have to keep families," he said.

"If they are obliged to go for the pay day [when selecting their schedule] and not because it's the right programme for their preparation before the Olympics or world championships, we'll get the results we deserve. Some competitors were preparing for Atlanta with no income at all."

In spite of this, British competitors finished in the top five in 12 track and field events at Atlanta, a reflection of Britain's continuing natural talent, even if there was no gold medal-winner. It is ironic, Radford reflected, that this relative success was deemed a failure while the nation was rejoicing in one player, Tim Henman, reaching the last eight at Wimbledon.

Reddie will be stressing the same message today, far from pessimistic but concerned at the increasing investment in success by rival nations that are now eroding Britain's traditional prestige. Denmark, for example, won four gold medals in Atlanta compared with one for Britain — Redgrave and Pinsent — and, per head of its population of five million, commits nearly ten times the public financial support by Britain to its Olympic team.

"Denmark are hugely resourced compared with us," Reddie said. "The critical area for us is the revision of lottery rules, to enable funding of governing bodies and competitors."

Reddie is also frustrated by the Sports Council bureaucracy, but emphasised that Britain's collective performance in Atlanta was not the failure widely portrayed, with an increase in silver medals from Barcelona of three to eight; and that, while Britain's team was reduced in size by a quarter, the number of competing nations had risen by 17 per cent.

If Britain wishes to hold its own, the Government, or its anonymous henchmen, must act.

Young Ardiles is midfield maestro

Haileybury 3
Batley GS 0

By JOHN GOODBODY

HAILEYBURY'S footballers were triumphant in the Independent Schools Cup yesterday with a first round victory in a match that they could win by five clear goals.

In the four years of the Boodle & Dunthorne Cup, Haileybury are the first school that predominantly plays rugby during the winter to enter the tournament.

Yesterday, with Freddie Ardiles, the son of Ossie, illuminating the midfield, they were always impressive, making a mockery of the fact that they have practised together only three times this term. The boys were expected to take part in the tie.

Freddie, whose father, the former Argentina and Tottenham Hotspur midfielder, coaches St John's Pulse, who play in the Japanese Cup final today, said: "Rugby is the No 1 game here. Football is becoming more popular."

About 230 out of 500 boys played football in the term and last February, Haileybury won the six-sided competition, which is restricted to the 25 independent schools who play football only in the new year.

David Pyle, the master in charge of football at Haileybury, said: "This term we have given space within the practice. At this stage, as much as I can ask for anyone here has been extremely encouraging."

Haileybury first began playing football in 1967, when a group of boys, led by a group of his fellow pupils to persuade the staff to allow football to take place. Their five may now be followed by their schools, who principally played rugby this term but whose old boys' team participate in the Arthur Durrant Cup. These include Harrow, Eastbourne and Harpenden Askes.

They will be encouraged by the fact that so many of the most distinguished institutes have been regular entries in the annual Boodle & Dunthorne Cup. Mark Dickinson, of Shrewsbury, who organises the knockout competition, which this year attracted 53 entries, said: "We were satisfied that Haileybury could fulfil fixtures this time, had a decent pitch and that they do play football there at all levels."



Freddie Ardiles, who had a hand in Haileybury's first goal, shows his poise on the ball

bury, who organises the knockout competition, which this year attracted 53 entries, said: "We were satisfied that Haileybury could fulfil fixtures this time, had a decent pitch and that they do play football there at all levels."

Certainly Haileybury fully justified their decision to participate. Graham Dawson, the master in charge of football at Batley, said: "We knew they

were principally a rugby school, so we thought we were in with a good chance. However, they had three or four strong players who swung the game in their favour."

Haileybury were both more forceful and more inventive in midfield, where Ardiles combined nimbly with Scott O'Donoghue, the captain, and a constant danger to Batley. Ardiles fed O'Donoghue for the first goal after 38 minutes

and Malcolm Bradford, a bustling striker, added a second in the 54th. O'Donoghue neatly curled a free kick round a defensive wall for the third goal.

HAILEYBURY: A. Aristed, J. Morton, C. Smiles, S. Tall, J. Church, O. Batley, F. Ardiles, S. O'Donoghue, M. Hart, S. Camp, M. Bradford, S. D. Williams, R. Raymond, P. Tuckwell.

BATLEY: J. Hargrave, A. Bentley, M. Webster, M. Foster, C. Bulmer, G. Batley, J. Woods, D. Bates, S. D. Williams, G. Chambers, L. Bates, S. D. Williams, R. Raymond, P. Tuckwell.

Referee: T. Blackdin.

IN BRIEF

Hampshire look to Hayden for assistance

HAMPSHIRE signed Matthew Hayden, the Australia Test batsman, as their overseas cricketer for next season yesterday. Hayden, 25, the Queensland vice-captain, has signed a one-year deal.

Courtney Walsh, 33, the West Indies captain, has agreed a new two-year contract with Gloucestershire. The deal is subject to Walsh's obligations to his country's board of control, who want him to stay in the Caribbean after this winter to help develop their domestic game.

ENGLAND UNDER-19 PARTY to tour Pakistan, November and December. First XI (Lancashire captain): G. Bailey (Yorkshire), D. Cook (Gloucestershire), P. Farago (Essex), J. Graham (Durham), S. Harrison (Durham), B. Hollis (Sussex), N. Martin (Middlesex), Z. Morris (Yorkshire), D. Nash (Middlesex), S. Peters (Essex), J. Powell (Essex), C. Read (Gloucestershire), D. Sales (Northamptonshire), A. Tahir (Sussex) Manager: P. Hale, Coach: J. Abrahams.

Top club

Bowls: West Cornwall won the inaugural Travellers EWBA national Top Club championship at Royal Leamington Spa yesterday, when they beat Milton Regis 3-1 in the final. The event is played to a new format, which requires teams of ten to compete in singles, pairs, triples and fours. A late rally by Milton Regis in the fourth prevented a West Cornwall whitewash.

Rincon wins

Cycling: The Spanish ONCE team continued its domination of the Tour of Spain yesterday when Oliverio Rincon, of Colombia, won the seventeenth stage, beating Laurent Jalabert, his team colleague and the overall winner last year. Alex Zülle, of Switzerland, retains the overall lead.

Second chance

Boxing: Cornelius Carr, of Middlesbrough, has been given a second chance to win a world title. Carr, 27, will meet Lonnie Bradley, the unbeaten World Boxing Organisation middleweight champion, in November.

Multilingual Crème

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A year in the life of a Premier League club, part three: winning with kids

United put premium on youth policy

The emergence of Nicky Butt, Paul Scholes, David Beckham and the Neville brothers is but the current manifestation of a youth policy that has long had the full backing of everyone at Old Trafford. Indeed, without such backing, in particular from manager Alex Ferguson, many of the club's best prospects would never have found their way into a red shirt. It was one of the factors that persuaded chairman Martin Edwards to stick with Ferguson after disappointing performances from the first team.

Time and again, parents of boys who have signed for Manchester United testify to the degree of warmth, enthusiasm and passion conveyed by Ferguson in what sometimes amounts to a personal crusade to entice prospects to Old Trafford.

"Manchester United are a massive club, but in terms of warmth and depth they were magnificent." These were the words of one father, former Chelsea and Queens Park Rangers player Steve Wicks, whose son was swayed away from north London to join up with United.

"There was a warmth and a passion about Alex Ferguson I never knew existed. He was the major reason we decided to sign for United. He talked passionately about his youngsters, how they were the club's lifeblood, how he hoped to bring more into the first team. He spent time with us, sold the club to us, had dinner with Matthew, showed him around the ground. He is a man I would totally trust with my son's future."

Old Trafford press officer Ken Ramsden confirms the club's enthusiasm: "Alex Ferguson is the manager who has come closest to [Sir Matt] Busby in the way he has set up the youth coaching. The manager will travel the length and breadth of the country to talk to a kid and his parents, rather than send someone else. It is important to him."

Almost inevitably, the success reaped by such a passionate approach will attract criticism that maybe more than just promises are being offered. Until such time as a player actually signs a professional contract with his club, usually aged 18 at the end of the two-year Youth Training

(YT) scheme, he is free to move and join whichever other club may catch his fancy, providing no financial inducement is offered.

This is why some clubs are keen to offer particularly attractive prospects a professional contract only halfway through their apprenticeship, to secure their services in the face of potential competition from other clubs, and provide them with more than menial YT subsistence, a £20,000 salary at the age of 17 being gratefully received.

In January 1996, United were twice found guilty of "poaching", one of the cases

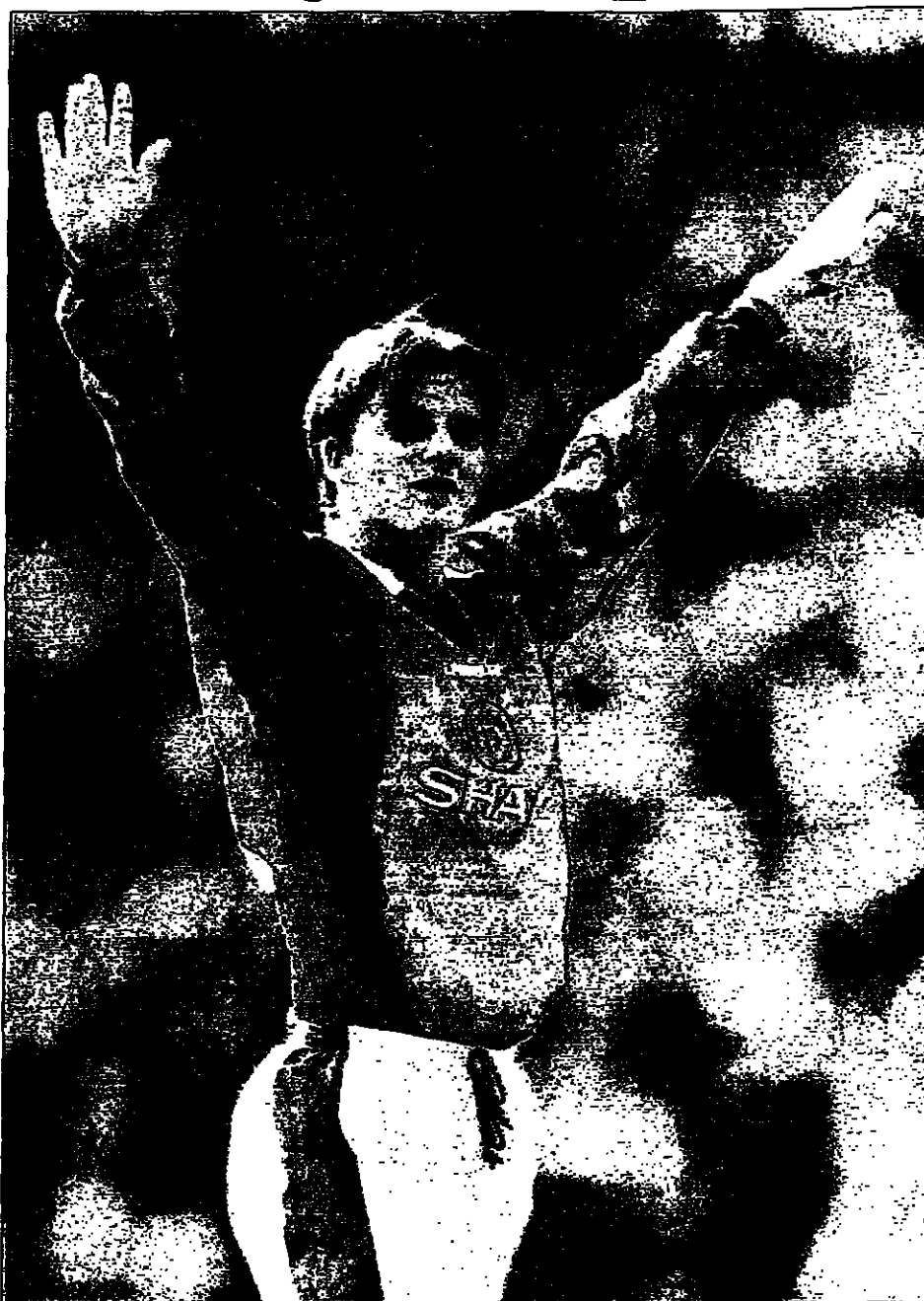
But although they can sign associate schoolboy forms at the age of 14, if the kid is any good, the English Schools Football Association will have first call on his services as it runs the first national side at under-15 level. The FA does not step in until the under-16 level, which has only recently been introduced.

The clubs are highly critical of the way in which talented young boys can be cajoled by the school system into playing too many matches. Clubs such as Tottenham try to use their centre of excellence to get the lad away from just playing competitive matches, concentrating instead on honing basic skills and techniques that may not be given time in the school environment.

But even when netted, it is not always the case that a club will know what it has under its nose. Ryan Giggs trained regularly at Manchester City's centre of excellence, and even after Alex Ferguson had been to the home of the 14-year-old prodigy to ask for his signature, City did not show sufficient interest, although Ryan's mother offered them first refusal of loyalty.

With the stakes so high and the clubs having access to kids at such a young age, the FA and the Premier League must move quickly to draft precise and effective ground rules. With the spectre since the Bosman ruling of the advent of free transfers within England, the small clubs may no longer feel it worth pursuing any form of youth development unless there are stricter policing and harsher penalties. Nominal fines are no deterrent when one illegal approach can net a player potentially worth millions. The sale by Tottenham of 21-year-old Nicky Barnby for £5.25 million is a graphic example of the value of one astute signing at schoolboy level.

When Tottenham's youngsters lost the FA Youth Cup final in May 1995, it was perhaps instructive that their opponents were Manchester United, for those Tottenham directors who may have taken the trouble to attend both legs (a 2-1 home win but a 0-1 and penalties defeat at Old Trafford), the ties will have exposed the chasm, not on the playing field, but in the attitudes of each club to such occasions.



Beckham celebrates an astonishing goal from the half-way line on the first day of the season, a feat confirming him as one of the most exciting of United's boy wonders

The first leg of the final took place on a warm May evening at White Hart Lane. While Ferguson set the tone for Manchester United by standing on the West Stand forecourt to meet and greet the parents he had invited down as his guests, fewer than 4,000 fans struggled to gain admittance to a game where the cost of employing extra turnstile operators had obviously been vetoed by the bean-counters.

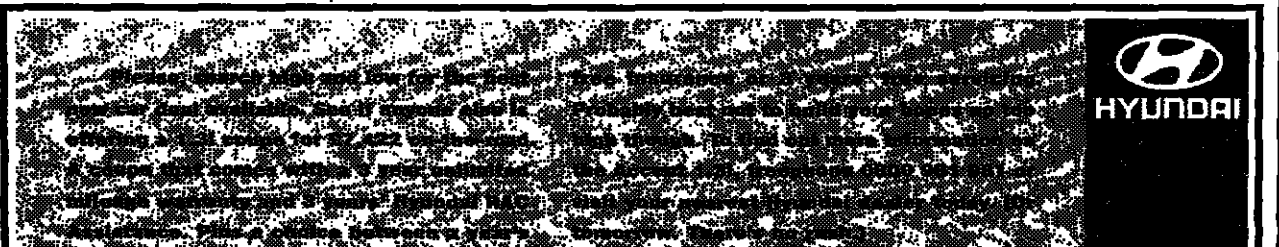
With scant advance publici-

ty and only the West Stand open, the undignified crush to gain admission was a prelude to an evening that showed the London club in a very shabby light indeed. The club shop was closed, missing a great opportunity to benefit from the high percentage of families in attendance. Pre-match and at half-time, crowds milled about the concourses desperately searching in vain for somewhere serving a snack or a drink.

There were no stewards on

view and no obvious sign of representatives from the club being on duty. There was no programme and the players had no names on their shirts, so nobody had a clue who they were watching.

God only knows what impression had been created on parents who were trying to weigh up the merits of their son joining either of the two clubs. The 20,190 attendance for the return leg at Old Trafford told its own story.



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£7,500 car that
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when you get back.



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TODAY'S FIXTURES

| | |
|---|--|
| FOOTBALL
Kick-off 7.30 unless stated
Premier League
Arsenal v Manchester United
Chelsea v Tottenham
Liverpool v Manchester City
Newcastle v Blackburn
Nottingham Forest v Sheffield Wednesday
Preston v Middlesbrough
Southampton v Ipswich
Sunderland v Aston Villa
West Ham v Derby
Wimbledon v Luton
York v Barnet | |
| RUGBY LEAGUE
First round, second leg
Bradford Bulls v Wakefield Trinity
Hull Vikings v Leeds Rhinos
Salford Red Devils v Wigan Warriors
St Helens v Huddersfield Giants
Wigan Warriors v Salford Red Devils | |
| RUGBY UNION
International match
Wales v France
(at Cardiff Arms Park, 7.45) | |
| OTHER SPORT
BASKETBALL: Bundesliga League: Crystal Palace v Leicester (8.0)
SNOWBOARDS: World Cup: (at Whistler)
TENNIS: LTA satellite tournament (at Tel Aviv) | |

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 44

APOTACTITE
(a) A member of an early Christian sect, who renounced all their possessions in imitation of what is recorded concerning the early church in Jerusalem. From the Greek *apostata* to set apart, to say adieu to.

BARRATRY
(a) Fraud, or gross and criminal negligence, on the part of the master or mariners of a ship, to the prejudice of the owners, and without their consent. From the Old French *barra*, to bar, to trickery. The earlier Roman sense was of commerce or dealings.

SQUALENE
(a) The oily substance found in the liver of sharks and other elasmobranch fishes as a transient state in the breakdown of cholesterol. A finding to ease the passage of breakfast-table pills.

SHRIMPY
(c) Abounding in shrimps. According to George Sala (1823-1896), journalist and travel-writer, it is "Margate the shrimpy, Ramsgate the asinine, Canterbury the ecclesiastical."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE
1... Qxd3 and if 2... g3, then 2... Bc3 mate.

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RADIO CHOICE

Powered by memories

Calling to Mind. Radio 4, 8.30pm.
"Ah yes, I remember it well!" So sang the nostalgic couple, memorably, in *Gigi*. The genuine pensioners in Cheryl Armitage's documentary do not remember it well without some skilful prompting. However, they respond so well to reminiscence therapy that they are able to put on a show based entirely on the unlocking, and exchanging, of old memories. As with the actors in a Mike Leigh film, they start with improvisation and finish up with a script. The aim of the reminiscence sessions, organised by the charity, Age Exchange, is to give the elderly a sense of the "wholeness" of life. Put simply, their memories are energised by their yesterdays. Their yesterdays should benefit, too. In any case, as one old dear says: "It's better than sitting in front of the telly."

Evening Concert. Classic FM, 8.00pm.
Birthday anniversaries, not always a valid reason for stringing together a selection of classical works, are nonetheless a good excuse for including celebrated recordings. One tonight features Glenn Gould, the brilliant Canadian pianist who, as time went on, behaved more and more eccentrically. The recording is of Schumann's Piano Quartet in E flat Op 47, in which Gould was partnered by the Juilliard Quartet. Today would have been Gould's 64th birthday; he died in 1982. His disenchantment with the concert platform led to him giving up all live performances in 1964. Peter Daville

| | |
|---|--|
| RADIO 1
FM Stereo, 6.30am Chris Evans 9.00
Simon Mayo 12.00 Lisa / Arson 2.00pm
Nicky Campbell 4.00 Mark Goodier 7.00
Evening Session 9.00 Alan Parker (1)
10.00 Mark Radcliffe 12.00 Clare
Suggess 4.00am Dave Warren | WORLD SERVICE
All times in BST. News on the hour,
5.30am Europe Today 6.30 Europe
Today 7.15 The World Today 7.30
Megamix 8.15 Off the Shelf: Tender is
the Night (18/20) 8.30 Discovery 9.15
Concert Hall 10.05 World Business
Report 10.15 Andy Kershaw's World of
Music 10.45 Sports Roundup 11.30
BBC English 11.45 Off the Shelf: Tender
is the Night (18/20) 12.30pm Thry-
Minute Drama: The Strange Case of Dr
Jekyll and Mr Hyde 1.30 Composer of
the Month 3.05 Outlook 3.30 Megamix
4.05 Sport 4.15 BBC English 4.30 News
in German 5.30 World Business Report
5.45 British Today 6.10 World Today
6.25 Science View 6.30 News in
German 7.30 Discovery 9.01 Outlook
9.25 Word of Faith 9.30 Multitrack X
Press 10.05 World Business
Britain Today 10.30 Maudlin (On
Screen) 11.30 World Today 11.45 Sport
12.10am Science View 12.15 Country
Style 12.30 Multitrack X Press 1.30
From Our Own Correspondent 1.45
Britain Today 2.30 Outlook 2.55 Word
of Faith 3.30 Maudlin 4.15 Sport 4.30
Europe Today |
| RADIO 2
FM Stereo, 6.00am Sarah Kennedy
7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 9.30 Alex
Lester 11.30 Jimmy Young 1.30pm
Debbie Throver 3.00 Ed Stewart 5.05
John Dunn 7.00 Jim Lloyd with Folk on
2 8.00am News 8.30 World Business Report
8.45 British Today 9.10 World Today
The Wordsmiths (2/2) 9.30 South
African Celebration (3/5) 9.30 News
10.05 The Jam 10.30am 12.05am
Charlie News 2.00 Steve Martin | CLASSIC FM
4.00am Mark Griffiths 6.00 Mike Read
8.00 Henry Kelly 12.00 Susanah
Simons 2.00pm Lunchtime Concerto
Shostakovich Piano Concerto No 1 in C
minor, Op 35, 3.00 James Clack 6.00
Concerto in D minor, Op 35, 7.00
6.30 Sorata, Dvorak (Piano Sonata in
C major Op 10 No 2) 7.00 Gardening
Focus (1) 8.00 Evening Concert. See
Choice 10.00 Michael Waples, tel at
11.30 Nocturne 1.00am Mel Cooper |
| RADIO 5 LIVE
5.00am Morning Reports, and 5.45
Wake Up to Money 6.00 The Breakfast
Programme 8.35 The Magazine, with
Denis Mack, tel 10.35 News from
Europe 12.00 Midday with Mar, tel
12.35pm Moneyback 2.05 Ruscoe on
Five, and guest of the day, 3.05 Ruscoe
Returns and at 3.45 Entertainment News
4.00 Nationwide, tel commentary of
Manchester United v Arsenal 7.00 News
Extra, tel at 7.20 Sports Bulletin 7.35
Trevor Brooking's Football Night. The
Champions League, featuring
Manchester United v Rapid Vienna and
Rangers v Auxerre 10.05 News Talk
11.00 Night Extra, with Valerie
Sanderson 12.05am After Hours, with
John Diamond 2.05 Up All Night | VIRGIN RADIO
6.00am Russ "I'm Jono 9.00 Richard
Skinner 12.00 Graham Dean 4.00pm
Nicky Horne 7.00 Paul Coyne
(FM) Radio Banks (AM) 10.00 Mark
Ford 2.00am Jeremy Clark |
| RADIO 3
6.00am On Air. Presented by
Andrew McGregor, Bach
Cantata No 2 in D minor, BWV
1004; Strauss (Oboe
Concerto); Gesualdo (Sepulchro
Cantata); Ravel (Suite: Mother
Goose); Salvi (The Sound
of Music); Schubert (Symphony
No 3 in C minor);
9.00 Morning Collection, with
Paul Gambaccini. Last (From
the Credo to the Grave); Berg
(Seven Early Songs);
Schubert (Symphony No 8 in
B minor, Unfinished)
10.00 Musical Encounters. Locke
(Symphony No 3); Vivaldi
(Sonata in C minor, Op 13);
John Adams (The Wound
Dresser); Libani (Symphony
No 2)
12.00 Composers of the Week:
The Court of James VI.
12.30pm Over the Borders. Music
in Europe in the reign of
James VI
1.00 Schubert and Beethoven.
Schubert (Moments
Musicaux, D780); Beethoven
(String Quartet in F minor, Op
68) (1)
2.00 Midweek Choice. With
Susan Sharpe. Includes
MacCormac (Overture: The
Land of the Mountain and the
Flood); Nicolai (The Death
of a Novice); Jan Dusek
(Concerto in G minor)
4.00 Choral Evening. Live from
the choir of the Cathedral
5.00 The Music Machine, with
Tommy Pearson
5.15 In Tune, with Jeremy
Nicholas. Bach (Prelude and
Fugue in C sharp, BWV 848);
Handel (Organ Concerto in F:
The Cuckoo and the
Nightingale) | RADIO 4
5.55am Shipping Forecast (LW
only) 6.00 News Briefing
6.10 Farming Today 6.25
Prayer for the Day 6.30
Today, tel 7.25, 8.25 Sport,
7.45 Thought for the Day
8.40 The Seven Families
Persimmon (3/5) 8.58 Weather
9.00 News 9.05 Midweek, with
James Callaghan Libby Purves
10.00 News: Return to Sender
(FM) (3/5)
10.00 Daily Service (LW) 10.15
On This Day (LW)
10.30 Women's Question Time,
from Norfolk (1)
12.00 News: You and Yours. With
Lesley Hiddock
12.25pm Mosaic FM. Drama series
by Moore Sval (4/6) 12.55
Weather
1.00 The World at One
1.40 The Archers (1) 1.55
Shipping Forecast
2.00 News: Cinderella O-Day, by
Julia Stoneham. The story of
a group of Land Army girls
during the Second World War
2.45 The New Recruit: The Bus
Driver. Billy Nice started his
career on the buses 34 years
ago as part of a team with the
conductor. Newcomer John
Wards is used to working
alone (1)
3.00 News: The Afternoon Shift
4.00 News: 4.05 Kaleidoscope.
Paul Gambaccini sees the
film version of Jane Eyre
directed by Franco Zeffirelli
and reports from the set of
Jude
4.45 Short Story: Defying the
Tiger, by Nick Timmons
5.00 PM Shipping Forecast
5.55 Weather
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 The Labour Exchange (1)
7.20 News 7.05 The Archers
7.20 Faces the Facts. John Wals
and his team of investigators
follow up listeners' complaints
7.45 Probe. Marcus Chown
presents a series that asks
tough questions about the
methods and applications of
science (3/4) (1)
8.30 Calling to Mind. See Choice
9.00 Competition to the Cosmos.
John Gribbin explores
scientific conundrums. This
week expert astronomers and
physicists assess the
likelihood of a comet's
massive collision with the
planet Earth (5/5)
9.30 Kaleidoscope 9.58 Weather
10.00 The World Tonight. With
Robin Lustig
10.45 Book at Bedtime: The
Great Gatsby. Sam Roberts
reads F. Scott Fitzgerald's
classic, abridged by Neville
Teller (3/10)
11.00 My Life as a Car. Phil
Daniels stars in the final part
of Mark Wallington's comedy.
Barry is misdiagnosed and
content but his son has other
ideas. With Chris Jury, Chris
Emmett, Sally Grace, Susan
Parkinson and Melanie
Hudson
11.30 Desmond O'Hare Dingle's
Complete Life and Works of
William Shakespeare by
Desmond O'Hare Dingle.
John Barnham is
Desmond's guest this week.
With Patrick Barlow and
Duncan Preston (1)
12.00 News, tel 12.25am Weather
12.30 The Late Book: Amongst
Women. Tony Doyle reads
John McGahern's story (8/10)
12.48 Shipping Forecast
1.00 As World Service |

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-92.0. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.6. LW 196. MW 192. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 893. 908. WORLD SERVICE. MW 648. LW 105.8. MW 1197. 1215. TALK RADIO UK. MW 1053. 1069. Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Deary, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McManis.

Unmarried mothers, unthinkable wronged

One of the distinguishing marks of various public figures who have fallen from grace in the past few years, from Tory politicians through American presidential advisers to Bishop Roderic Wright, is that they were all young men in the 1960s, the decade of sexual revolution.

This may be coincidence, for people in positions of power at a given time tend to be middle-aged. It may also be because the moral sea change which occurred in that decade, fed by technology (the birth pill) and social reformism (homosexual and abortion law reform) inevitably tended to have bad as well as good consequences.

Yet the impression that everybody who was young in the 1960s was on some kind of thrill-a-minute rampage is simply wrong. There were plenty whom the upheaval passed by, or merely victimised, as an excellent documentary last night demonstrated.

Witness: Love Child (Channel 4) will have surprised those who, unlike me, were either too old or too young to have been at the eye of the moral storm.

The programme was about three women, single then, who had children while being married. Whatever might have been happening "swinging" London, and however regrettable were some of the more extreme manifestations of liberation, these women were living through a horror story scripted in the Victorian age and directed by an unforgiving society.

None of the women was promiscuous. None intended to get pregnant. None took pregnancy lightly. None sought to have it terminated, which would have been illegal at the time. But all paid a price in shame and ostracism that should have been unacceptable, but was in fact quite the reverse.

All three women had gone to school at a time when a biology

lesson was, literally, about birds and bees. Of human beings there was no mention. Birth control was hit and miss, the Pill not yet being widely available. One of the women, a Roman Catholic, used with her (steady) boyfriend coitus interruptus, which she memorably described as being "like going to London for the night and getting off at Watford".

One woman, a student nurse, was sacked as soon as the hospital learnt of her pregnancy. Another was taken for walks by her father in the dark so that neighbours would not see her condition. Six weeks before the birth, the women were sent to a mother and baby home, which was "one step up from the workhouse".

There, male doctors were ordered not to speak to the women; their instructions were passed on by a midwife. While at the home, the women went out to

work in various offices. They wore wedding rings from Woolworths and called themselves Mrs. One said: "We spent the day pretending to be grown-up and came back to an environment where we were treated like children." There was no question of the women in the programme being allowed to keep their children (though some other women did).

A month after the birth, with the

mothers still in the home, a social worker would start looking for adoptive parents. There were various processes for the handing over of the child. One of the natural mothers was sent out for a walk. She was told: "The couple will take the baby if they like her." When this mother returned, "the cot was empty. I went home on the bus with my mum and it was never to be mentioned again."

There is still a degree of stigma attached to unmarried motherhood and there are undoubtedly some people whose coupling is at best casual and at worst wanton. But if a measure of moral ambivalence is the price of overturning the attitudes which blighted the lives of the women in *Love Child*, then so be it.

Timewatch returned to BBC2 a couple of weeks ago and has been in top form ever since. Last night's *Gold Rush Memories* recalled the Klondike of 100 years ago, a

momentous human adventure that began when three men turned up at ports on the West Coast of America bearing four tons of gold.

Word spread like fire in a refinery. The Yukon River and its hinterland became the target for people from all over the world, including doctors, dentists and academics. Dawson City, previously of no account, acquired a population of 40,000 in a matter of weeks and was to become a metropolis.

Among the gold-seekers was a 25-year-old from Bridport in Dorset, Will White's letters home, to his parents and to Nellie, his fiancée, revealed a somewhat quaint crudition and helped to lift the programme well above the standard of such yarns. "The men on the ship are a very bad lot," wrote White, brought up a Wesleyan, of his voyage, "and the ladies are

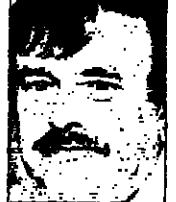
also a particularly poor lot." Like many thousands of others, White was not to make a fortune. He staked two claims but they produced very little and he ended up — having left the Post Office Savings Bank in England — working for the Canadian Bank of Commerce. It was eight years before he could afford to send for Nellie, who by that time had outgrown her first wedding dress and had to make another.

There has been nothing quite like the Klondike gold rush since, not even in the early days of oil exploration. The prospectors may be dismissed as fools, but they were glorious fools who worked like stink. Now we gather before a machine hoping for the right six numbers at 14 million to one. I doubt that will make much of a documentary in 2096.

● Lynne Truss will appear tomorrow

REVIEW

Peter Barnard



work in various offices. They wore wedding rings from Woolworths and called themselves Mrs. One said: "We spent the day pretending to be grown-up and came back to an environment where we were treated like children." There was no question of the women in the programme being allowed to keep their children (though some other women did).

A month after the birth, with the

CHOICE

Tomorrow's World (BBC1, 7.30pm)
If we just waited long enough we knew that science would eventually come up with a way to lose weight that did not involve boring hours pedalling away at a gym or depriving ourselves of delicious food. If researchers in Barcelona are right there is a naturally occurring substance in the human blood which regulates how much fat a body carries. Olethyl-Estrone was given to obese mice causing a dramatic weight loss, equivalent to an 18-stone person losing three stones in two weeks. It has none of the side-effects of drugs or crash dieting because it causes the brain to think the body is bulkier than it really is, resulting in fat burning up to compensate. There, we always said we were fat because we had slow metabolisms and not because we ate too much. Call me an old pessimist, but it sounds too good to be true.

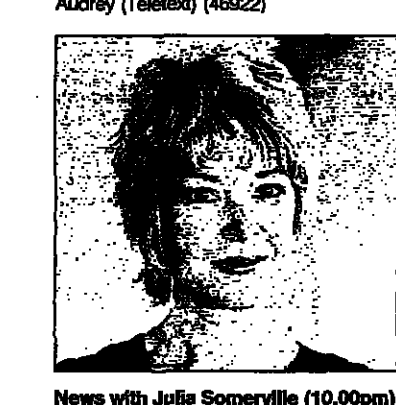
Decisive Weapons: Vietnam Warhorse (BBC2, 8.00pm)
That image of the swarms of Bell-Huey helicopters over the Vietnamese jungle in *Apocalypse Now* was no cinematic invention. The Wagner-loving commander, he was based on Colonel John B. Stockton, a macho-spirited leader who got his pilots to wear stilettoes and is one of the contributors to this story of the Bell-Huey helicopter. Originally used as an air ambulance in the Korean War, the Bell-Huey was designed and honed as a fighting machine. Its mobility, rapid-fire ability and quick deployment of men won the Americans the battles, but they still lost the war. The Bell-Huey again became a symbol of Vietnam for the Americans when they were shown being pitched over the sides of fleeing carriers. One for military strategists and boys who like to play with modelling kits.

Great Railway Journeys: The High Andes to Patagonia (BBC2, 9.30pm)
The wry and witty veteran scriptwriter Buck Henry is our guide to the ups and downs of Argentina. Using the concept of finding a story for a new script, Henry tries to ride down and across the country on the railways. He does not always manage it. Instead he gets to where he is going by road, bus, taxi, or when push comes to shove — on foot. He is a mellow companion, noting with gentle irony how much of the infrastructure of the country has "disappeared" along with the 30,000 people cleared by the Generals in the 1970s. He eats meat with the gauchos, tangoes with the youth of Buenos Aires and has a high old time with Rega, an eccentric painter of trains.

The Larry Sanders Show (BBC2, 11.15pm)
The beauty of this little nugget of a comedy is that it crosses the line between fiction and reality with the ease of a five-year-old. Garry Shandling plays a live late-night talk show host Larry Sanders whose set bears a remarkable resemblance to those of David Letterman and Jay Leno. With a precision touch that must have been derived from experience, the scriptwriters have created the atmosphere of a genuine late-night schmoose that goes on behind the scenes of a ratings-grabbing show. The characters of art manipulator Artie and Hank, the sidekick with ambitions but no talent, are beautifully observed. Tonight, Hank's machinations to get himself a spot on morning television and the backstage storyline, while in front of the cameras, the guest is wildman Bobcat Goldthwait, a man noted for his ability to set the place on fire. Literally.

6.00am GMTV (9793699)
9.25 **Supermarket Sweep** (Teletext) (s) (895812)
9.55 **Regional News** (Teletext) (3468293)
10.00 **The Time... the Place** (31699)
10.30 **This Morning** (42987458)
12.20pm **Regional News** (Teletext) (7841632)
12.30 **News and weather** (Teletext) (255767)
12.55 **Shortland Street** (s) (2930458) 1.25 **Coronation Street** (s) (Teletext) (1306534) 2.00 **Home and Away** (Teletext) (s) (9754854) 2.25 **Outlines** (Teletext) (s) (9752036) 2.50 **Vanessa** (Teletext) (s) (7682038)
3.20 **News** (Teletext) (7688038)
3.25 **Regional News** (Teletext) (7687309)
3.30 **Tots TV Classics** (s) (8938941) 3.40 **The Parkies** (4073477) 3.50 **Asio Farm** (s) (891729) 4.05 **The Twisted Tales of Felix the Cat** (s) (2630816) 4.15 **Animaniacs** (Teletext) (s) (7261187) 4.40 **Retrace** (Teletext) (8256670)
5.10 **Wheel of Fortune** (s) (6722944)
5.40 **News and weather** (Teletext) (7685038)
6.00 **Home and Away** (s) (Teletext) (315632)
6.25 **HTV News** (Teletext) (409545)
6.50 **Sportsworld** (589380) **HTV WALES: The Really Helpful Programme** (589380)
7.20 **Champions League Live: Manchester United v Rapid Vienna**. Live coverage from Old Trafford of Manchester United's second game in this season's European tournament against last year's Cup Winners' Cup finalists, Rapid Vienna (Teletext) (2618552)
9.30 **Coronation Street**. The Platts return with some unexpected news for Alf and Audrey (Teletext) (46922)

As HTV West except:
6.25pm **Wales Tonight** (409545)
6.50-7.00 **The Really Helpful Programme** (589380)
10.40-11.40 **Hunter** (690729)



News with Julie Somerville (10.00pm)

10.00 News and weather (Teletext) (59336)
10.30 **Regional News** (Teletext) (615749)
10.40 **West Match Plus**. Highlights from the second-round second round games in the Coca-Cola Cup (60729) **HTV WALES: Hunter**
11.40 **Champions League Highlights**. A round-up of the evening's events in the Champions League featuring Manchester United v Rapid Vienna, Glasgow Rangers v Valencia, FC Barcelona v Juventus and AC Milan v Gothenburg (555632)
12.45 **God's Gift** (896404)
1.45 **Cyber Café** (43046)
2.15 **Dear Nick** (17937)
3.15 **Bushell on the Box** (s) (89059107)
3.40 **National Football League Extra** (s) (834897)
4.20 **TV Sport Mini Classics** (89124152)
4.30 **The Time... the Place** (s) (65249)
5.00 **Three's a Crowd** (s) (33152)
5.30 **ITN Morning News** (26133)

As HTV West except:
6.25pm **Wales Tonight** (409545)
6.50-7.00 **The Really Helpful Programme** (589380)
10.40-11.40 **Hunter** (690729)

WESTCOUNTRY
12.55 **Coronation Street** (2930458)
1.25-1.55 **Outlines** (8980361)
1.55 **Home and Away** (29548629)
2.25 **Vanessa** (97549941)
2.55-3.20 **A Country Practice** (1494309)
5.10-5.40 **Home and Away** (6722944)
6.00 **Westcountry Live** (779632)
6.50-7.00 **Wheel of Fortune** (589380)
10.40-11.40 **The Westcountry Match** (690729)

CENTRAL
As HTV West except:
12.55 **Home and Away** (2930458)
1.25 **Outlines** (8980361)
1.55 **A Country Practice** (32299309)
2.20 **Vanessa** (97540670)
2.50-3.20 **Yan Can Cook** (7662038)
5.10 **Home and Away** (6722944)
6.00 **Meridian Tonight** (406458)
6.20 **Ridgiders** (324380)
6.50-7.20 **Wheel of Fortune** (589380)
10.30 **Meridian News and Weather** (526800)
10.45 **The Pier** (421835)
11.15-11.40 **The Meridian Match** (349293)
5.00am **Freescreen** (33152)

S4C
Starts: 6.35 **Shirley and George** (1243908)
7.00 **The Big Breakfast** (36632) 9.00 **Bless This House** (16293) 9.30 **Ysgolion: Good Health** (8374903) 9.45 **Book Box** (8374905)
10.00 **Stage Two Science** (458941) 10.15 **Making Sense of Science** (419038) 10.45 **Breaking the Mould** (1306309) 11.07 **Lost Animals** (4256570) 11.15 **The Mix** (5361851) 11.30 **Rat-a-tat-tat** (5072496) 11.50 **Archway** (1818019) 12.00 **Little River Journeys** (21089) 12.30pm **Backstage** (51800) 1.00 **60/60** (40019) 1.30 **Film: Went the Day Well** (2242554) 3.15 **Ricki Lake** (6087106) 4.00 **Fifteen to One** (105) 4.30 **Moving People** (390) 5.00 **5 Pump: Rownd A** (8875361) 5.15 **5 Pump: Ffili** (755187) 5.30 **Countdown** (670) 5.05 **Heno** (330338) 6.35 **Jagpet** (582477) 6.00 **Polol Y Cwm** (265707) (555812) 6.30 **Polol Y Cwm** (265707) 6.40 **Polol Y Cwm** (265707) 6.50 **Polol Y Cwm** (265707) 7.00 **Polol Y Cwm** (265707) 7.10 **Polol Y Cwm** (265707) 7.20 **Polol Y Cwm** (265707) 7.30 **Polol Y Cwm** (265707) 7.40 **Polol Y Cwm** (265707) 7.50 **Polol Y Cwm** (265707) 8.00 **Polol Y Cwm** (265707) 8.10 **Polol Y Cwm** (265707) 8.20 **Polol Y Cwm** 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SIMON BARNES 45

Damon Hill and
a touch of
poetic justice

SPORT

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 25 1996

FOOTBALL 46

How a youth
policy can
pay its way

Three sent off as Scots are reduced to Uefa Cup disarray in Germany Nine-man Celtic dismissed

SV Hamburg 2
Celtic 0
(Hamburg win 4-0 on agg)FROM KEVIN MCCARRA
IN HAMBURG

ON A night when Celtic hoped that the means of recovery in this Uefa Cup first-round tie might lie in the passion of their performance, they found the occasion marked only by transability. Celtic had two central defenders, Malky Mackay and John Hughes, sent off before the interval, yet the Scots felt that they, too, had been victims.

Their forward, Jorge Cadete, had to be taken off on a stretcher after Stephane Henchoz's challenge from behind in the 12th minute. Celtic will grumble, too, that the injured player involved in each of their dismissals, Kmetzsch, had little difficulty in returning to the action.

Whatever the quibbles, however, Tommy Burns's team also displayed a ruinous naivety. The fouls that brought Mackay and Hughes their second bookings were committed when there was no immediate danger.

Each man, conscious of having already been booked, ought to have been practising self-restraint. It may be symptomatic that while Hamburg also had a man dismissed, when Schupp committed his second bookable offence by kicking Wieghorst, the lapse came in the 71st minute, when the game was effectively over.

With Celtic's second departure — Hughes being dismissed four minutes from the interval — it became impossible to assess the qualities of his team's performance. Enough evidence was available by then, though, to demonstrate the shortcomings of this side. Celtic may have persuaded themselves that they possessed a squad capable of play as cosmopolitan as the nationalities it contains, but any such assertion has been proved false.

In Hamburg's Volksparkstadion, Celtic could not break out of a syndrome whose origins lie in an era when the side was composed only of Scots. After six visits over 20 years, the



Cadete, right, the Celtic striker, gets in a shot despite the close attentions of Friis-Hansen during a stormy match in Hamburg last night

club has still to record a goal on German soil.

A glance at Burns's selection would not have suggested that redressing that statistic was a priority. Van Hooijdonk, the leading goalscorer last season, had to content himself with a place on the bench until Cadete's injury, although the decision was not as perverse as it might have appeared. A 2-0 defeat in the first leg in

Glasgow had resulted because of the lack of stability in the team.

Burns must have believed that he would have a side of greater substance here. There is no foolproof strategy for overhauling a two-goal deficit on the opposition's ground, but Celtic had believed that they might eventually prosper if they could only stand their ground.

The greatest events in the initial exchanges were of a tactical nature. Celtic had been operating with a single attacker, Cadete, but once the Portugal international was injured, adjustments had to be

made. Van Hooijdonk is not mobile enough to operate alone and Di Canio had to be sent forward to support him.

A match seemingly lacking direction, though, had actually taken its bearings from an incident in the fifth minute, when the inexperienced Mackay was booked for fouling Schupp. Eighteen minutes later, the centre half forced Kmetzsch to the ground and was shown the red card.

Hamburg, who are having a poor season in the Bundesliga, nevertheless knew how to exploit their advantage. After 23 minutes, Schupp exchanged passes

with Sporl before — as Celtic vainly appealed for off-side — finding Baron, who fired past Marshall.

Hughes collected his first booking in the 37th minute, after fouling Breitenreiter, and three minutes later Celtic might have equalised when Di Canio sent a curling shot against the post. Within a minute, Hughes had departed, after Kmetzsch went down when challenged, and Celtic were left to engage the referee in futile argument.

Five minutes into the second half, Sporl fought a pass over Celtic's defence for Breitenreiter to score. By then,

though, goals no longer mattered much and Burns, who argued with the referee at full-time, should be counting instead the six dismissals his side have suffered in an occasionally irresponsible season.

SV HAMBURG (3-5-2): R. Gotz — A. Fischer, J. Friis-Hansen, S. Henchoz (subs: J. Kwasniak, S. Bittl, M. Schütz, S. Kmetzsch (sub: J. Hartmann, 83), M. Schupp, B. Hübner, K. Baron (sub: H. Sahm, 85), A. Breitenreiter, 87). CELTIC (2-5-1-1): G. Marshall — M. Mackay, A. Subban, J. Hughes — J. Molinar, B. O'Neil, P. O'Neil, T. O'Neil (subs: S. Donnelly, 69), T. Boyd — A. Thom (sub: M. Wieghorst, 69). J. Cadete (sub: P. van Hooijdonk, 13). Referee: V. Schuch (Belarusia).

Arduous son shines, page 42
United puzzle, page 44
Winning with kids, page 46

Towers put European challenge back on course

BY NICHOLAS HARLING

LONDON TOWERS withstood the frenzy of 13,000 basketball supporters in Georgia yesterday to record their first win in the European Cup yesterday. They recovered impressively from a dismal defeat in Verona last week and enhance their chances of progressing from the group stage of the tournament.

Towers, the Budweiser League champions, who begin their home programme with a tie against the Turks from PTT Ankara at Wembley next Wednesday, conceded the first three baskets, but, once Danny Lewis, their lively American playmaker, was into his stride, things improved. He had collected 17 points by half-time — when the Towers held the narrowest of leads, 45-44 — and he finished as the game's top marksman with 29 points, two more than Sanadze managed for Vita.

Alan Cunningham, a scoring threat throughout, and Joe Hooks collected 14 rebounds between them to keep the Towers on top, even after their exhausting 16-hour journey, which had begun on Monday morning with a 5.30am start.

Towers had the resources to employ the physically-demanding pressing game that has served them so well in the league so far this season. Helped by several fast breaks, they scored 12 successive points early in the second half to stretch their advantage to 15 points. Their surge was aided by three successive three-pointers from Paul Deppish, their long-range specialist, who recovered well from his meagre tally of only one from ten attempts in Italy last week.

It was only in the later stages that Vita rallied. They closed the gap to two points before Martin Gottfried, Lewis and Hooks made the game safe in the closing half-minute.

Towers, who have won all three league games so far, resume their domestic programme at Wembley on Sunday, when they receive Hemel and Watford Royals, one of three clubs still without a win. Tony Windless, the American forward who is ineligible for European competition, according to the regulations of the International Basketball Federation, will be able to return for that game.

Lewis given title chance after Tyson hands over his crown

BY SRIKUMAR SEN
BOXING CORRESPONDENT

MIKE TYSON has given up the World Boxing Council (WBC) heavyweight title. After Don King, the promoter, had failed to negotiate a deal with Lennox Lewis for a world title bout with Tyson in June, the WBC was notified by Tyson's camp on Monday that the champion had given up the title.

Panos Eliades, Lewis's principal negotiator, was notified about Tyson's decision by Jose Sulaiman, the president of the WBC, yesterday. Eliades said: "I tried my best to make the fight with Tyson. We were negotiating up to ten days ago. King even came back with a desperate attempt to save the belt for Tyson by offering to go to pursue bids for the Lennox-Tyson fight in June. Since that was what we had always wanted, I was happy to go along with that and awaited a fax confirming this offer from King, but it never came. Time ran out and we had to get on with the pursue bids for Lennox's fight with (Oliver) McCall for the vacant title."

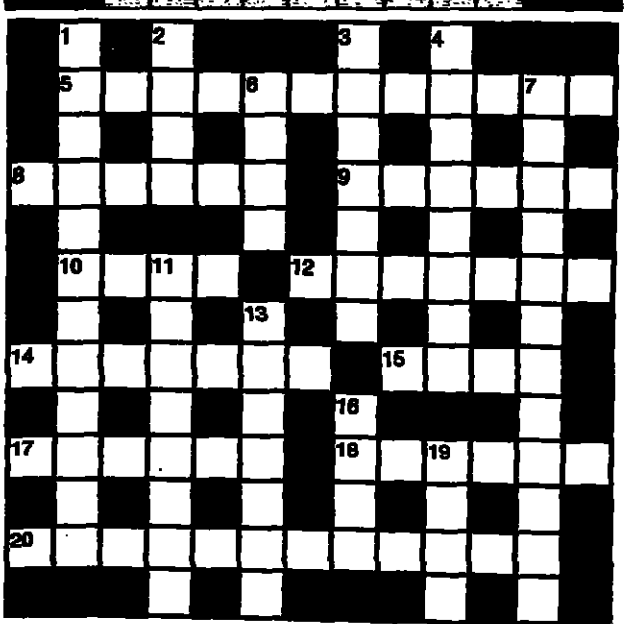
Tyson was obliged by the WBC rules to put his mandatory defence against Lewis up for pursue bids, but as Showtime, the television company that has Tyson under contract, refused to put the bout up for auction, there was no way out for him.

The vacant title will now be contested by Lewis, the No 1 contender, and McCall, the No 2. The bids will be opened tomorrow.

Apart from the two main interested parties, King and Panix, Lewis's promoters, two other bidders, Frank Warren, an associate of King's, and Main Events, Lewis's American promoters, will also be putting in bids.

If King wins, Lewis against McCall will be part of a show to be staged in Las Vegas on November 9 featuring Tyson against Evander Holyfield, for the World Boxing Association belt; Michael Moorer, the International Boxing Federation champion, against Frans Botha, of South Africa, and Henry Akinwande, of Great Britain, against Alexander Zolkin, of Russia. If Panix wins the right to stage the bout, the contest will most likely be held at the London Arena in November.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 896

ACROSS

- 5 Number as V.C.M. (5,7)
8 Merryred like Stephen; drugged (6)
9 Competitions for team hopefuls (6)
10 Ring; summon (4)
12 Fetter (7)
14 One heading for shrine (7)
15 Transfer to solid food (4)
17 Chocolate pastry (6)
18 Thick-headed (6)
20 Exotic food/meat shop (12)

DOWN

- 1 Polar region delineator (6,6)
2 So be it (4)
3 Rubbish collector (7)
4 Magically leave ground (8)
6 Unditched (4)
7 Times past; song after Burns (4,4,4)
11 US pioneer's small house (3,5)
13 Active by day (7)
16 The water rat (4)
19 Fighting tooth (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 895

- ACROSS: 1 Cuff 3 Scaffold 8 Away 9 Memorial 11 In two minds 14 Morale 15 Miller 17 Sweetheart 20 Evacuate 21 Bush 22 Ministry 23 Heed
DOWN: 1 Charisma 2 Flattery 4 Credit 5 Floodlight 6 Omit 7 Dale 10 Follow suit 12 Pleasure 13 Wretched 16 Neuter 18 Team 19 Pain

SOLUTION TO TIMES TWO CROSSWORD 891

In association with BRITISH MIDLAND

- ACROSS: 6 Footage 7 Guard 9 Sieve 10 Chatter 11 Sliced bread 14 Antagonised 17 Quintet 19 Lance 21 Excel 22 Rose-red
DOWN: 1 Pure 2 Making 3 Rescue 4 Agra 5 Masthead 6 Fast 8 Delude 11 Set piece 12 Basilisk 13 Marquee 15 Nature 16 Lead 18 Toll 20 Nero
1st PRIZE of a return ticket travelling economy class to anywhere on BRITISH MIDLAND's domestic or international network is S Caldwell, Stamford, Lincs.
2nd PRIZE of a return ticket to anywhere on BRITISH MIDLAND's domestic network is V Cook, Warrington, Surrey.
All flights subject to availability.

Collapse of TV deal puts cup in doubt

BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE withdrawal of ITV yesterday from an agreement to broadcast rugby union's Heineken Cup has left the sport's fledgling European club tournament in disarray, despite an assurance from the organising company that both first and second-tier competitions would go ahead.

If Heineken, the sponsoring company during the competition's inaugural 1995-96 season, follow suit — and Whitbread, the parent company, is now considering its position — the financial structure underpinning the tournament and worth more than £6 million this season would collapse almost completely. ITV's decision comes after

New lead for Wales 45

weeks of wrangling. The company's initial involvement was based on the entry this season of English and Scottish sides, but the game's complex political position has created uncertainty over the extent of English club involvement in the longer term; even now they have given only a verbal assurance that they will take part in the competitions this season.

The activities of the English Professional Rugby Union Clubs (Epruc) were roundly condemned by Tom Kiernan, chairman of the European Rugby Cup Ltd (ERCL). Kiernan said that actions which fomented unrest were "unwelcome, divisive and an affront to the common purpose of the five nations." An Epruc spokesman responded by saying that ITV's decision was "disastrous" for Euro-

pean rugby: "It illustrates that we can't leave guys to look after our affairs," he added. The clubs now fear that, if the tournament collapses completely, there could be a month-long void in their season.

The Heineken Cup, involving top sides from the four home unions, France and Italy, is due to start on October 12 with a second-tier tournament, the European Conference, played at the same time. Semi-finals are due on November 16 and the finals on January 4 but the scheduling of the tournament, as well as the limited facilities for television at so many clubs, created problems for ITV: they included clashes with mid-week football and unfavourable weekend kick-off times.

"Over the past few weeks we have been discussing terms under which ITV could take up its option for future coverage of the European Rugby Cup," an ITV statement said. "Unfortunately, and despite goodwill on both sides, we were unable to reach a mutually-acceptable agreement."

ERC still have agreements with FRZ in France and Tele Piu in Italy but if they are to keep their sponsors, they desperately need terrestrial coverage, possibly from BBC's regional companies. "We are considering our position and are in discussions with ERC," Jeremy Wilton, Whitbread's head of sponsorship, said. "I hope the clubs will see past the money and acknowledge the structure of the competition, and the impact and benefits it will bring to rugby — clubs, spectators, players."

Date's retirement serves up surprise

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

WOMEN'S tennis has produced its share of burnt-out teenage prodigies, promising young careers snuffed out by the punishing physical and emotional demands of the professional circuit. Yesterday, it learnt of the retirement of one of its leading players, apparently at the height of her powers.

Kimiko Date, the world No 7 from Japan, announced that she would retire at the end of the season. So far as she is concerned, Date, who will be 26 on Saturday, is quitting



Date: sense of fulfilment

at the top. "I came to think that now is the limit of my strength," she told a news conference in Tokyo yesterday.

Date said she first began thinking about retiring in June, when the Women's Tennis Association announced it would introduce a new, stricter ranking system from next year. She finally made up her mind just before the start of the women's tournament in Tokyo last week in which she lost a tough three-set semi-

final against Monica Seles, the joint world No 1.

"I felt a sense of fulfilment, particularly last year and this year, because I think I played evenly-balanced matches with the top players in the world," she said.

Date will be remembered by many British tennis followers for her performance against Steffi Graf in the semi-final at Wimbledon this year when she reeled off six successive games to level the match at one set each before play was halted because of bad light. Graf regained the initiative the next day to win 6-2, 2-6, 6-3. Earlier in the year she had engineered an upset win over Graf in the quarter-finals of the Fed Cup, leading Japan to the semi-finals for the first time.

After turning professional in 1989, Date became the first Japanese player to reach the world top 10 in January 1994 and achieved the highest ranking of her career, world No 4, at the end of last year. She won her first professional tournament in 1992 and claimed her seventh tour victory last month when she beat Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, of Spain, in the Toshiba tournament in the United States.

Date will play her last match at the WTA championship in New York next month and said she had no reservations about her decision to leave the sport. "I have no regrets... I was able to achieve things which I never dreamed of when I started playing tennis." Although she has been linked romantically with a popular actor by the Japanese media, she quipped: "I'm not retiring to get married."

Brewed under the influence

(of our great grandfather)

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